FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-117
Monday
17 June 1996

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-117

CONTENTS

17 June 1996

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief Discusses Arab Summit, Israeli Stance *[London MBC TV]* 1
Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief Discusses Summit Aims, Stance on Peace *[MENA]* 1
Inter-Arab: Arab League Secretary General Receives Iraqi Representative *[INA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: PLO Leadership Discusses Upcoming Summit, Hebron Issue *[Jericho VOP]* 1
Palestinian Affairs: PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas on Netanyahu's Message, Summit *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: 'Ashrawi Views Summit, Sees Tests for Netanyahu *[Cairo Radio]* 3
Palestinian Affairs: Arab World Pressure on PA Believed Possible *[HATZOFE 16 Jun]* 3
Palestinian Affairs: PA Strategist Proposes Solution to Jerusalem Question *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Palestinian Affairs: PLO's Abu-Mazin Certain Netanyahu Will Meet 'Arafat *[Milan PANORAMA 20 Jun]* 4
Palestinian Affairs: Official Warns Israel Against Going Back on Agreements *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Palestinian Affairs: Fatah Official Urges Authority To Arm Palestinians *[AL-BILAD 13 Jun]* . 5
Palestinian Affairs: Islamic Resistance Claims Attack on Israeli Patrol *[Beirut Radio]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Algeria: Iraqi Foreign Minister Arrives With Message From Saddam *[Algiers TV]* 7

Egypt

Egypt: Foreign Minister Musa Previews Arab Summit *[Cairo Radio]* 7
Egypt: Musa Interviewed on New Israeli Government, Peace Process *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Jun]* 7
Egypt: Musa Contacts Arab Ministers, Comments on Summit Agenda *[MENA]* 10
Egypt: Mubarak Previews Summit, Rescinds Press Penalties *[Cairo Radio]* 11
Egypt: Parliament Amends Press Penalties *[MENA]* 11
Egypt: Press Syndicate Chairman Meets al-Janzuri, Comments *[MENA]* 11

Libya

Libya: Al-Qadhdhafi Visits al-Rabitah Factory *[JANA]* 12
Libya: Al-Qadhdhafi—Bombing in UK 'Should Not Be Supported' *[JANA]* 12

Sudan

Sudan: National Democratic Alliance Chair on Opposition in North, South *[Voice of the National Democratic Alliance]* 12
Sudan: Al-Bashir Rejects Opposition Memorandum on Stepping Down *[AFP]* 12

Sudan: Palestinians Reportedly Expelled by Authorities *[MENA]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Bahrain: Minister on Iran's Role in Hizballah-Bahrain *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Jun]* 14

Kuwait

Kuwait: Libyan Envoy—Crisis Over Al-Qadhdhafi Comments 'Contained' *[KUNA]* 15
Kuwait: Government Asked To Supply Oil to North Korea *[KUWAIT TIMES 3 Jun]* 16

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Normalization Seen as 'Weapon' To Pressure Israel *[AL-JAZIRAH 3 Jun]* 17

UAE

UAE: Al-Husayni—Jerusalem Must Be Main Topic of Summit Agenda *[Jericho VOP]* 17

IRAQ

Iraq: Tariq 'Aziz Letter to Rolf Ekeus *[INA]* 18
Iraq: UN Inspectors End Standoff, To Leave for Bahrain 16 Jun *[AFP]* 19
Iraq: UN Arms Inspectors Leave Baghdad After Weapons Site Vigil *[AFP]* 19
Iraq: UN Inspection Team Head Cites 'Very Bad Experience' in Iraq *[AFP]* 20
Iraq: Regime Reportedly Evacuating Areas Near Military Sites *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 20
Iraq: Regime Said Using Agricultural Aircraft for Reconnaissance *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 20
Iraq: Press Supports 'Aziz Letter, Criticizes Ekeus *[INA]* 20
Iraq: Paper Says Cooperation With Special Commission To Continue *[INA]* 22
Iraq: Paper Emphasizes Continued Cooperation With UN Commission *[INA]* 22
Iraq: Report on 'Exclusive Interview' With al-Anbari *[AL-QADISIYAH 4 Jun]* 23
Iraq: Ramadan—Country's Exclusion From Summit Decided in Damascus *[AL-ASWAQ 17 Jun]* 25
Iraq: Ambassador to Jordan Confirms Iraqi-Syrian Contacts *[AL-MAJD 17 Jun]* 25
Iraq: Turkish Forces Reportedly Cross Border *[INA]* 25
Iraq: PUK Issues 'Clarification' on KDP Attacks *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 26
Iraq: Armed Clashes Reported Between Kurdish Groups in North Iraq *[AFP]* 26
Iraq: Opposition Forces Claim Explosion at Navy Installation *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 27
Iraq: Bomb Explodes in Baghdad 'Last Week' *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 27

ISRAEL

Israel: New Knesset Convenes 16 Jun; Peres, Weizman Deliver Addresses *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Israel: Sharon Accepts Construction Minister Portfolio; Swearing In 18 Jun *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Israel: Coalition Agreement, Basic Guidelines Presented to Knesset *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Israel: UTJ, Yisra'el Ba'aliya Sign Coalition Accords *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Israel: Third Way Signs Coalition Agreement With Likud *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Israel: SHAS, NRP Sign Coalition Agreement, Guidelines With Likud *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Israel: 'Heavy Pressure' From Washington To Form Unity Government *[Jerusalem TV]* 30
Israel: Clinton's Expectations of Netanyahu Goverment Reviewed *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Jun]* 30
Israel: Commentary Urges Netanyahu To Stand Firm on Security *['Arutz 7 News Service]* 31

JORDAN

Jordan: King Husayn—Netanyhu Election 'No Reason for Anxiety' *[Amman Radio]* 33

Jordan: Information Minister on King's 'Most Successful' U.S. Visit *[JORDAN TIMES 15 Jun]* 33
Jordan: Information Minister Remarks at Washington Institute Cited *[AL-DUSTUR 16 Jun]* 34
Jordan: Talks Reportedly on To Move Hammer Force to Country *[AL-MAJD 17 Jun]* 34
Jordan: Former Deputy Prime Minister Heading Delegation to Baghdad *[JORDAN TIMES 15 Jun]* 35

LEBANON

Lebanon: Buwayz Cited on Elections, Bahrain Incidents, Peace *[VOL]* 36
Lebanon: Bahraini Envoy Discusses Hizballah Training With Buwayz *[VOL]* 36
Lebanon: Hizballah Decries Bahraini Minister's Remarks *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Lebanon: Hizballah Suggests U.S., Israel Behind Bahraini Charges *[VOL]* 36
Lebanon: Information Minister on Arab Summit, Monitoring Committee *[Cairo International]* 37
Lebanon: Fadlallah on Jerusalem Conference Convening in Beirut *[Tehran International]* 37
Lebanon: Fadlallah Condemns Israel-Turkey Accord *[IRNA]* 37
Lebanon: 1 Killed, 2 Wounded in Village Bomb Explosion *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Lebanon: 5 Children Said Killed in Hula Bomb Explosion *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Lebanon: Hizballah Denies Israeli Claim on Blast *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Lebanon: AFP Journalist in South Lebanon Taken to Israel for 'Questioning' *[AFP]* 38
Lebanon: Media Reacts After Israel Confirms AFP Correspondent's Arrest *[AFP]* 38
Lebanon: 2 SLA Soldiers Die of Bomb Injuries *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Lebanon: Explosion in Fatah Official's Home Kills 3 *[VOL]* 39

SYRIA

Syria: Turkey Said Behind Blasts; Border 'Tense' *[London AL-HAYAH 15 Jun]* 40
Syria: Forces Reportedly Mass Near Turkish Border *[AFP]* 41
Syria: Troop Movements, Gunfire on Turkish Border *[AFP]* 41
Syria: Troop Movements Said Not Aimed at Turkey *[AFP]* 42
Syria: Iran, Syria Consider Joint Reaction to Israel-Turkey Pact *[AFP]* 42
Syria: Cairo Summit To 'Reaffirm' Commitment to Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Syria: Summit Urged To Consider 'Seriousness' of New 'Alliances' *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Syria: Israel's Netanyahu Urged To Accept UN Resolutions *[SYRIA TIMES 15 Jun]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: President Reiterates Appeal for All-Party Talks *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Afghanistan: Official Denies Hezb-e Eslami's Suspension From HCC *[Message of Freedom]* 45
Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Spokesman on Positive Moves Toward Peace *[Tehran International]* 45
Afghanistan: Taleban Fails To Attract Leaders of Opposition Groups *[IRNA]* 46

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: BNP's Khaleda Zia Alleges Election Irregularities *[Dhaka Radio]* 46
Bangladesh: President Assures Installation of Elected Government *[Dhaka Radio]* 46
Bangladesh: Jatiya Party To Support Awami League in Goverment *[AFP]* 47
Bangladesh: Foreign Observers Praise 'Free, Fair' Election *[Dhaka Radio]* 47
Bangladesh: Troops Redeployed To Check Unrest During Repolling *[AFP]* 48
Bangladesh: Sources Say General Dismissed From Service *[AFP]* 48
Bangladesh: 7 Army Officers Dismissed, 4 Compulsorily Retired *[Dhaka Radio]* 48

India

India: RSS Favors 'National Consensus' on CTBT *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 14 Jun]* 49

India: Government Gives 'Full Support' to Missile Program *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 14 Jun]* 49
India: Former Minister Says Missile Development Unavoidable *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 14 Jun]* 49
India: Spokesman Comments on Steps To Counter Missile Threat *[THE HINDU 14 Jun]* 50
India: Government Gives 'Guarded Response' on Pakistan Missiles *[THE TELEGRAPH 14 Jun]* 51
India: Prime Minister Gowda Addresses Nation *[Delhi TV]* 51
India: Court Orders Arrest of Kashmir Police Chief *[Islamabad TV]* 53

Iran

Iran: Russian Ambassador on Nuclear Cooperation With Iran *[IRAN NEWS 11 Jun]* 54
Iran: Diplomat Discusses Russo-Iranian Relations *[ABRAR 8 Jun]* 55
Iran: President Rafsanjani Criticizes U.S. Actions *[IRNA]* 56
Iran: Radio Discusses U.S. Sanctions Against Iran, Libya *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Iran: Daily Emphasizes 'Crucial' U.S. Role in Balkans Peace *[IRNA]* 57
Iran: French Company Ignores U.S. Sanction Pressure *[IRNA]* 57
Iran: KAYHAN Views Crisis of Legitimacy in Bahrain *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 10 Jun]* 58
Iran: Commentator Suggests Ways for Bahrain To Overcome Problems *[KHORASAN 9 Jun]* 58
Iran: Editorial Warns Bahrain May Become 'Another Algeria' *[IRAN NEWS 11 Jun]* 59
Iran: Paper Assails Turkish Policy Toward Syria, Deal With Israel *[IRNA]* 60
Iran: Paper Calls Netanyahu Program 'Declaration of War' *[TEHRAN TIMES 9 Jun]* 60
Iran: KAYHAN Comments on Cairo Summit, Misplaced Threat to Peace *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 10 Jun]* 61
Iran: Afghan Party Leader Praises Iran's Peace Efforts *[IRNA]* 61
Iran: Afghan Paper Comments on Signing of Economic Agreement *[IRNA]* 62
Iran: Tehran's Protest to UK Envoy Statement *[IRNA]* 62
Iran: Velayati Voices Concern About Tajikistan in Letter to UN *[IRNA]* 62
Iran: Daily Warns UN, Turkey Over Iraq Relations *[IRNA]* 63
Iran: Rafsanjani Stresses Eternal Nature of Revolution *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Iran: Deputy Outlines Important Missions of New Majles *[AKHBAR 11 Jun]* 64
Iran: MP Says Too Early for Political Formations in Majles *[IRAN NEWS 11 Jun]* 64
Iran: Minister Promises Growth in Industrial Exports *[AKHBAR 12 Jun]* 65
Iran: Majles Deputy on Trend Toward Reducing Oil Dependency *[IRAN 11 Jun]* 65
Iran: Construction Industry Looks to Foreign Markets *[TEHRAN TIMES 12 Jun]* 66
Iran: TEHRAN TIMES Views Handicrafts Sector's Economic Role *[TEHRAN TIMES 10 Jun]* 66
Iran: Supreme Court Passes Judgment on Spy Cases *[IRAN 11 Jun]* 67
Iran: 9 Employees of Clergy-led Firm Arrested for Fraud *[IRAN NEWS 12 Jun]* 67

Pakistan

Pakistan: Government Decides To Cancel Mirage Deal With France *[THE NATION 15 Jun]* . 67
Pakistan: Government Denies Reports of Cancellation *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Pakistan: Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Discusses Defense Matters *[KHABRAIN 14 Jun]* ... 68
Pakistan: 'Serious Efforts' Begin on Proposed Talks With India *[PAKISTAN 15 Jun]* 69
Pakistan: Asif Ali Comments on Kashmir Elections, Ties With India *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Pakistan: Bhutto Article Views Upcoming G-7 Meeting in Lyon *[DAWN 13 Jun]* 70
Pakistan: Bhutto Chairs Top-Level PDF Meeting *[THE NEWS 16 Jun]* 71
Pakistan: Bhutto Defends Federal Budget *[Islamabad TV]* 71
Pakistan: Atomic Energy Commission Faces 10 Percent Budget Cut *[THE NEWS 16 Jun]* 72
Pakistan: 5 Arab Islamic 'Preachers' Arrested, To Be Deported *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Jun]* 72

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Minister Says LTTE Must 'Lay Down Arms' Before Talks *[Colombo Radio]* 73

Sri Lanka: Minister Comments on Energy Situation *[DAILY NEWS 15 Jun]* 73
Sri Lanka: LTTE Dispatch Confirms Attack on Police *[Tamil Eelam News WWW]* 73
Sri Lanka: 'Terrorists' Attack Police Posts *[Colombo Radio]* 74

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief Discusses Arab Summit, Israeli Stance

NC1506191796 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In an exclusive interview with London MBC Television in Arabic, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stated that the next Arab summit does not mean severing ties with Israel as much as it means asserting a commitment to peace:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Majid] The Arab countries have expressed their stances and shown readiness. This gathering is aimed against no one. It highlights the Arab countries' concern to advance the peace process. The ball is in the Israeli court. Now that the elections have been held, the Israeli side must play their part. We are in a state of expectation and are waiting. When Israel made all its pledges before the elections, it did so as an Israeli Government, as an Israeli state.

[Al-Shami] Does the issue concern halting normalization between some Arab countries and Israel...

['Abd-al-Majid interrupts] No, this issue is not up for discussion right now. Today we are sending a clear message, a desire for peace. It is a constructive and objective message. Peace should be understood as involving the entire region, including Israel. [end recording]

Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief Discusses Summit Aims, Stance on Peace

NC1606160396 Cairo MENA in English 1522 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today called on the Arab leaders and heads of state to agree on the formation of a committee comprising some member-states to supervise implementation of the resolutions to be reached at the Cairo plenary summit.

The General Secretariat of the Arab League should also be instructed to hold an extraordinary session of foreign ministers to follow up the implementation of the summit's resolutions, 'Abd-al-Majid said.

'Abd-al-Majid told ROSE AL-YUSUF weekly magazine that the collective and immediate Arab response to the call for the convocation of the summit reflects the dangers and challenges the Arab nation is facing.

This Arab response is regarded as a message from the Arabs to the world public opinion stressing the need to maintain peace, he said.

'Abd-al-Majid denied that the summit will convene in response to the Likud Party assuming power in Israel.

The Israeli elections is an internal affair, 'Abd-al-Majid said, noting that the call for convening the summit was an Arab desire to continue the peace process and not to go back to the language of threats of war.

Israel should also determine early its stand vis-a-vis the implementation of the agreements formerly concluded [on] withdrawal from all the occupied lands if it is willing to realize a genuine peace in the region, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said.

Inter-Arab: Arab League Secretary General Receives Iraqi Representative

JN1606190396 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (INA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general, received Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent Arab League representative.

During the meeting, the secretary general was briefed on latest developments regarding Iraq's stand on provocation by the UN Security Council's inspection teams against Iraq and the teams' failure to respect Iraqi sovereignty and national security.

Najm presented Iraq's proposals, which were contained in a letter by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. In the letter, 'Aziz expresses Iraq's desire to cooperate with the Special Commission based on a reasonable timetable to accomplish its mission in a way that maintain's Iraq's sovereignty and security.

An INA correspondent in Cairo said that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his understanding of the Iraqi stand, which is based on the principles of sovereignty and national security.

The secretary general said that the Arab League welcomes and appreciates Iraq's efforts to reach the oil-for-food agreement with the United Nations. He noted that the Arab League considers this an important step on the road to lifting the blockade on Iraq and its people.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: PLO Leadership Discusses Upcoming Summit, Hebron Issue

JN1506064596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat chaired a joint meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the Council of Ministers in the Nabulus Governorate last night. The speakers of the Palestine National Council and the Palestinian Legislative Council attended. A comprehensive review was made of the current political developments and the upcoming Arab summit.

After a three-hour discussion, it was decided to form a committee under President Yasir 'Arafat to draw up the Palestinian stand at the summit, based on adherence to the Palestinian national principles and the peace process and the need to work for a unified Arab position as a most important factor in supporting Palestinian and Arab rights and rejecting Israeli maneuvering. The joint meeting emphasized that convening the summit constitutes a sign of strength in the Arab nation, ending the Arab state of division.

The participants decided to begin negotiations in Brussels on 24 and 25 June based on the invitation of the Council of Europe. The EU has called on the Palestinian Authority to sign the EU-Palestinian partnership agreement as soon as possible.

The joint meeting decided to consider the city of Nabulus the center of the Palestinian financial market and to back economic activities in the city. The participants called for considering the West Bank's governorates primary venues for their meetings at this important stage.

The joint meeting was briefed on the latest conditions in Hebron in light of the failure of the Israeli occupation forces to withdraw on time, considering this to be a serious violation of the agreement and an indication of the Israeli Government's policy. The participants asked the new Israeli Government to be committed to the signed agreements and to withdraw from Hebron immediately because continuing violations of agreements and failure to implement them threaten the peace process.

Palestinian Affairs: PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas on Netanyahu's Message, Summit

JN1506074696 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1543 GMT 14 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, aka Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee and "engineer of the Oslo accords," by unidentified correspondent in the studio; place and date not given; from the "Week's Event" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] We begin our interview with Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] by asking him about the Palestinian fears regarding the Likud's assumption of power, and about Palestinian expectations of the Cairo summit.

['Abbas] Regarding Palestinian fears, I believe these are justified, because of the slogans raised by the Likud in its election campaign. These extremist slogans make one believe the talks will reach a deadlock. This is in addition to the Likud's old stands. However, I would like to say something here: Since the Israeli people have elected the Likud to rule Israel we must wait and see. Perhaps the slogans raised by the Likud will be different from what will be practiced on the ground.

Regarding the Arab summit, I would like to say that we are very enthusiastic about Arab summits. The last summit was held following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Since then, there have been many Arab issues awaiting discussion at such a summit. As the political, or peaceful Arab track on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts is awaiting Arab support, the Palestinian track is also awaiting such support, particularly these days when fears abound

We are expecting our Arab brothers to adopt a clear and defined Arab stand vis-a-vis the entire peace process. We want to see a clear vision of the future and progress on all Arab tracks which are still waiting for solutions. I am not saying that the summit should discuss only these matters as there are other Arab issues which concern us also, such as the three United Arab Emirates islands, which are occupied by Iran; the current threats to Bahrain; the situation in Iraq and the suffering of the Iraqi people; the situation in Libya; and what takes place in the Arab homeland every now and then. All these issues require an Arab stand and must be discussed on the level of the Arab summit. Hence stems the importance of the summit to be held on 21 June.

[Correspondent] Abu-Mazin, in the wake of the Likud's victory, do you expect the summit and the meetings which will be held in connection with the summit, to result in a reevaluation of relations among the Arab parties directly involved in the peace process?

['Abbas] We are concerned about Arab solidarity not only occasionally, but all the time. Now might be the appropriate time to open this chapter among the Arab brothers, who are directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, such as Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt. These countries are in dire need of restoring cohesion. Frankly, we do not need an event to achieve cohesion. The relations should be good and strong between us and the brothers in these countries.

[Correspondent] Will you demand, like Syria, to stop the normalization and establishment of Arab relations with Israel, or do you base this on achieving progress in the peace process?

['Abbas] We believe that once there is progress it will be easy for the Arabs to develop their Middle East relations, including relations with Israel.

[Correspondent] Abu-Mazin, you were the first Palestinian official with whom Israeli Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu held contacts through his adviser Dore Gold. What was the nature of these contacts?

['Abbas] Dore Gold introduced himself to me as the adviser to Mr. Bibi Netanyahu and asked me to convey a letter to brother Yasir 'Arafat and to the Palestinian leadership. The letter says the Likud Party is committed to the peace process, that it believes in it, that after forming its government and its negotiating team it will start talks with us, and that this will be as soon as possible. In both cases, the letter was reassuring, nothing more and nothing less.

[Correspondent] All the statements by the Likud leaders, however, are full of no's: no to the Palestinian state; no to Jerusalem partition; no to Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank; and no to stop building settlements.

['Abbas] I would like to say a word of truth here. This man, Gold, told me that the statements made by Bibi Netanyahu or by his official representative represent the government's stand. All other statements do not represent Netanyahu. Anyhow, it is very important for us to wait and see whether these slogans will continue to be raised or whether they are for local consumption. Consequently, there will be a way to place the suspended issues, particularly the final-stage issues, on the negotiating table. This will be proven in the next days and weeks.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Ashrawi Views Summit, Sees Tests for Netanyahu

NC1506190296 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, has stated that the next Arab summit is important in and of itself and demonstrates Arab commitment to a real peace process, particularly the land-for-peace principle.

In an exclusive statement to our radio, Dr. 'Ashrawi said Israeli Prime Minister-designate Binyamin Netanyahu and his government face several tests. These include implementing commitments previously agreed upon, particularly the redeployment of Israeli forces in Hebron, the release of Palestinian detainees, and the issue of safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank.

'Ashrawi called on the Arab leaders attending the Cairo summit to proclaim their willingness to show real solidarity and to form a follow-up committee to preserve the peace process and back the Palestinian position on the Jerusalem issue.

Palestinian Affairs: Arab World Pressure on PA Believed Possible

TA1606090696 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 16 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Senior Palestinian Authority [PA] officials are drafting a proposal in anticipation of the Arab summit in Cairo, according to which an inter-Arab aid fund for the PA would be set up. Most of the aid is expected to arrive from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. These countries have so far refused to assist the PA because of Yasir 'Arafat's support for Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn in the Gulf war.

It is feared that the Arab countries participating in the fund will exact a certain political price for the funds they contribute. They may demand a PA pledge not to sign any new agreements with Israel without the consent of the donor countries and the other Arab states participating in the summit. Such a demand would paralyze the permanent status talks. Israeli political circles believe that to promote the peace process, Western influence, rather than Arab, is to be preferred. 'Arafat has complained that the Israeli Finance Ministry has been delaying the transfer of funds to the PA.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi from Gaza, a Palestinian Council member and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, proposed last week that the summit pass a resolution saying that talks with Israel on economic and diplomatic issues should be discontinued until the Netanyahu government recognizes the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Addressing the Palestinian Council meeting in Nabulus, 'Arafat voiced misgivings about Netanyahu's avoiding meeting with him and with other PLO officials.

Palestinian Affairs: PA Strategist Proposes Solution to Jerusalem Question

TA1706063796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Walid al-Khalidi, a senior adviser of the Palestinian Authority [PA], proposes a plan of his own for a solution of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and of the Jerusalem issue. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Ben-Menahem] Dr. al-Khalidi, the PA's strategic adviser, said in Washington that chances of reaching a dignified peaceful solution with the Likud government on the Jerusalem issue are nil. At the same time, he proposed a plan of his own for a solution of the Jerusalem question which could be accepted in the future. PLO officials say this is a trial balloon in the wake of the Likud's rise to power.

According to his plan, East Jerusalem would be the capital of Palestine while West Jerusalem would be the capital of Israel. The 1949 armistice line would demarcate the border between the two parts of the city, but movement between them would be unrestricted. The Jewish Quarter in the Old City, the Western Wall, and the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives would be outside the PA's jurisdiction.

Al-Khalidi says a limited number of Jews would be allowed to stay in East Jerusalem; they would be considered Israeli citizens and would run their affairs through a municipality subordinate to the Palestinian municipality. A supreme religious council would be founded which would see to it that each faith look after its own holy sites. Land confiscated by Israel in Jerusalem on which houses have not yet been built would be returned to the Palestinians, and the right of return or compensation would be given to Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem living abroad. Al-Khalidi further proposes a joint Israeli-Palestinian municipality or ministry in Jerusalem, whose leadership would be rotated.

As for the Jewish areas outside Jerusalem's 1967 borders — that is, the new neighborhoods of Jerusalem — al-Khalidi says their fate would be like that of the settlements in the West Bank.

Al-Khalidi, director of Harvard University's Middle East Studies Department, further says that even if the Likud government agrees to hold talks about Jerusalem, this would be a farce comedy which would never lead to a dignified solution for the Arabs and the Muslims.

Palestinian Affairs: PLO's Abu-Mazin Certain Netanyahu Will Meet 'Arafat

BR1406132896 Milan PANORAMA in Italian 20 Jun 96 p 92

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas by Simonetta Della Seta; place and date not given: "Shake Hands, Netanyahu"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Arafat called me right away, as soon as the final results of the Israeli elections were announced. "We must talk with the Likud Party as soon as possible, he said. Let us proceed with them." Who is better than Abu-Mazin to perform the delicate and historic task of building a dialogue between the Palestinian Authority and the new right-wing Israeli Government?

Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, in accordance with the Palestinian custom of taking the first son's name, is not only one of the most illustrious figures of the PLO, its founder, and a member of its Executive Committee. If there were already a Palestinian state, 60 year-old Abu-Mazin would be its foreign minister. Furthermore, everyone regards him as Yasir 'Arafat's alter ego. He is said to be the only person that could replace him. "Among us there is no number one and number two," Abu-Mazin explained in an exclusive interview to PANORAMA. "There is no Rabin and no Peres. There is, first and foremost, Abu-'Ammar, the president. We are colleagues, partners, but if he is absent I take charge." He added reassuringly: "This has nothing to do with the rumors about his state of health. 'Arafat is well; there is nothing to fear."

Be that as it may, Abu-Mazin is an expert in relations with the Israelis: He has initiated and supervised all the secret channels of communication between the PLO and the Jewish state over the past 20 years, including Oslo; and, with 'Arafat, Yitzhaq Rabin, and Shim'on Peres, he signed all the peace agreements between the Palestinians and Israelis. Moreover, after the war in Lebanon — which lasted from 1982 through 1986 — Abu-Mazin became convinced that the Likud Party too could have an interest in engaging in dialogue with the Palestinians and he sought direct contacts with the hawkish Ariel Sharon: "After having himself led the siege on Beirut and several actions against the Palestinians in Lebanon, he responded as follows to the criticisms of an Israeli communist: 'Some day you will realize that only I can permit the establishment of a Palestinian state.' That seemed to me to be a key statement." Abu- Mazi added: "We were then, and we are still now, willing to engage in negotiations with the Israeli Government, whichever one it may be. We are not forgetting that all Israelis, whether of the Left or of the Right, have been our enemies."

Is it a coincidence that Abu-Mazin was the only member of the Palestinian Authority to be contacted by Binyamin Netanyahu's political adviser? "Dore Gold, the man who has been Netanyahu's assistant on peace issues for some years, called me twice: The new prime minister feels bound by the peace process with the Palestinians and with the Arabs; he will honor everything that has been signed. After the government has been formed, a delegation will be appointed and will make contact with us."

Certainly the new prime minister promised his voters that he would never shake 'Arafat's hand. But, Abu-Mazin said, "I am sure Netanyahu will meet with 'Arafat. If he does not shake his hand, there will be no peace: Everyone knows that; he is the partner. 'Arafat. I myself will never allow myself to be used as a mediator in the negotiations." Confronted by Peres' spectacular defeat, 'Arafat has seemed saddened, depressed, and definitely worried. "We cannot of course ignore the fact that Peres was our partner. The fact that for five years Rabin and Peres worked tirelessly alongside us. That it was they who spoke with the PLO for the first time. And that they honored their promises by implementing the army's withdrawal and granting us the autonomy. Obviously the death of one, Rabin, and the political defeat of the other, Peres, has caused us great sadness. But we cannot make the Israelis' choices for them. Their decisions are free."

With regard to the Likud Party's attitude, Abu-Mazin explained: "We have no preconceptions. We are waiting to meet the members of the government in order to work with them. Of course, their slogans were not promising. Propaganda? What is important now is to understand. I am sure that once a certain degree of confidence has been created, we will also make progress in the negotiations. The Israelis are well acquainted with wars. Now we have managed to sit around a table and talk. This is already peace. If Israel wants to retain a place in the Middle East, this is the way. It has no other choice." He added: "We too have no choice. We are risking our leadership, our position, and even our lives. But the cause is too noble, and the opportunity is too important."

Nevertheless the Arab countries have called for a mobilization against Netanyahu: "All the Arabs, like ourselves, were accustomed to Peres. They had learned to believe in his sincerity. Netanyahu is an enigma, and his slogans represent a danger. The Arab summit scheduled for 21 June in Cairo will not be harmful. Netanyahu will not be our only subject. But a pretext. A good opportunity for us Palestinians. After all, we are the heart of the entire problem, and it would be a good thing for the Arab world to display sensitivity to this fact." If the major problems — Hebron, Jerusalem — are not resolved, "it will mean war, but nobody wants that. Netanyahu will withdraw from Hebron and will thus show that he wants peace. As for Jerusalem, we have three years to discuss it. From now until 1999, with goodwill and proper pressures from the international community, we can cover a great deal of ground."

Palestinian Affairs: Official Warns Israel Against Going Back on Agreements

JN1506201896 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jun 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Authorized and attended by President Yasir 'Arafat, the Popular Media Department organized a ceremony at the al-Shawwa Cultural Center in Gaza this evening to commemorate 'Atif Bsaysu on the fourth anniversary of his martyrdom. The ceremony ended a short while ago.

In a speech, Salim al-Za'nun, also known as Abu-al-Adib, speaker of the Palestine National Council, said: We are waiting for the liberation of the Hebron Governorate. He added that the [Palestinian] National Authority will confront what he described as a political coup in Israel.

Al-Za'nun said that the National Authority fulfilled its commitments to the peace process and Israel should commit itself to what it signed. He lauded the Arab move designed to unify the Arab position. He also expressed hope that some Arab states will stop the normalization of relations with Israel, and underlined the importance of achieving the Palestinian objectives.

'Ahid Bsaysu delivered a speech on behalf of the martyr's family. He thanked President 'Arafat for participating in the commemoration ceremony.

Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, PLO Executive Committee member, gave the speech for the Fatah Movement. He demanded that the new Israeli Government respect the agreements signed with the Palestinian side and to continue the negotiations regarding the final solution.

Dr. al-Agha warned the Netanyahu government against reneging on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreements. He stressed the need for national unity in order to build a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Al-Agha also urged all Palestinian factions, particularly the opposition, to assume their national and historic responsibilities in this sensitive phase in order to confront the imminent dangers. He said national unity is the rock on which all conspiracies concocted against the Palestinian people will founder. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Fatah Official Urges Authority To Arm Palestinians

TA1606133696 Ramallah AL-BILAD in Arabic 13 Jun 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-BILAD — Sakhr Habash, alias Abu-Nizar, member of the Fatah Central Committee and head of its ideological department, has said that those who wagered on Peres' victory and formulated their future policy on this basis made a grave mistake. The Arab parties, especially the National Authority [NA], should have taken all possibilities into consideration so that they could be able to deal easily with any change.

Sakhr Habash said it will be very difficult to deal with the Likud in the upcoming stage, but the results will be guaranteed, especially since the Likud Party was the one that made peace with Egypt and launched the peace process in Madrid. Moreover, the international position needs peace in the region. That position will inspire any person who comes to power in the countries that are interested in peace. Otherwise, he will find himself internationally isolated since this peace is an international demand. [passage omitted]

Regarding the future of Jerusalem, Sakhr Habash stressed it will not be other than the capital of the state of Palestine. He added that this will be achieved through Arab and Islamic strategic action, particularly as international legitimacy gives us this right. Without this there can be no peace. [passage omitted]

Abu-Nizar called on the Palestinian parties and Fatah to reshuffle the cards to confront the new changes. At the same time, he said there is a need to arm the Palestinian people in the NA areas so that they will be able to defend themselves against any Israeli military attack.

On the amendment of the national charter, Sakhr Habash said that there is a draft amendment but that this draft will not be implemented until we find out what we will be getting from the new government, especially on the issue of Hebron. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, Habash accused Tehran of trying to derail the peace process. He said that Iran did not support us when we were surrounded in our trenches, while now it is seeking to destroy the peace process. He renewed his call for unifying the Palestinian stance in order to confront any future Israeli danger.

Palestinian Affairs: Islamic Resistance Claims Attack on Israeli Patrol

NC1606135896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance released a statement today in which it claimed it detonated two explosive devices while an Israeli patrol was travelling along the Sfaray road in the occupied border strip this morning. The explosion left the enemy patrol personnel dead or injured.

Algeria

Algeria: Iraqi Foreign Minister Arrives With Message From Saddam

LD1506203596 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived in Algiers today. He was greeted at Houari Boumediene International Airport by Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf and the ambassadors of both countries. On his arrival, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf made the following statement:

[Begin Al-Sahhaf recording] My visit to sisterly Algeria comes within the framework of consultations and the exchange of viewpoints about numerous issues of interest to the two sisterly countries. Moreover, I will be conveying a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual. We will discuss important issues pertaining to bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries, Iraq and Algeria. These issues will receive our utmost attention and no doubt that of our Algerian brothers too.

My visit comes within this framework and under the present circumstances it will include in-depth discussions on several of these issues. [end recording]

Egypt

Egypt: Foreign Minister Musa Previews Arab Summit

NC1406074696 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that the collective Arab summit, to be held from 21-23 June, is a natural beginning of the process of unifying the Arab fold. He added that the summit is the result of recent intense efforts by Egypt and other Arab countries. He noted that the Cairo summit is above all an Arab affair and will deal with Arab concerns, primarily the peace issue because it affects the region's present and future.

He said there is an open opportunity for the new Israeli Government currently being formed to clearly express its position on the peace process through its stands and deeds.

Musa added that the summit's proposed agenda will be submitted to the Arab foreign ministers' unofficial meeting prior to the summit so they can discuss its topics. They will agree on specific issues to be discussed by the Arab presidents, kings, and amirs, he noted.

He said the committee in charge of preparing papers for the collective summit is continuing its work as requested by President Husni Mubarak.

'Amr Musa met yesterday with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid as part of the coordination and consultations between Egypt and the Arab League on the Cairo collective Arab summit.

Egypt: Musa Interviewed on New Israeli Government, Peace Process

TA1406115896 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT [LESHABAT supplement] in Hebrew 14 Jun 96 pp 8, 9, 26

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Smadar Peri in Cairo; date not given] }[FBIS Translated Text] [Peri] Mr. Foreign Minister Musa, do you know Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu?

[Musa] Yes, sure. I met him at the Madrid conference, and we met again two years ago in July in Jerusalem. We share a similar background. We both were ambassadors to the United Nations.

[Peri] What do you think about Netanyahu politically?

[Musa] I know what everybody knows: He represents the Likud with its right-wing platform, which is a hard platform for peace. But I do not want to pass judgment on him until he presents the new government's platform and establishes himself as prime minister. So far Netanyahu has given his party colleagues freedom to say whatever strikes their political fancy. I hope this will change after the presentation of the platform, which will bind them as cabinet members. Therefore, we will wait and see, but not for long.

[Peri] Does Netanyahu seem moderate or extreme to you? Does he want peace or is he opposed to it?

[Musa] You cannot ask me that question now, I do not plan to fall into that trap. I have warned my colleagues here in Cairo not to label him as wanting-peace or not-wanting-peace. The fog is very thick at this point and it is hard to say since everybody will tell you they want peace. Even the most extreme right-wingers who do not want to give back territory or recognize the rights of the Palestinians will tell you they are for peace. So what?

[Peri] Sir, I heard you say in Damascus that you do not want a "platonic peace." What did you mean?

[Musa] Just as in a relationship, "platonic peace" is a situation where there is talk but no deeds. I want to see concrete steps that will bring us to center stage, to peace, which is, afterall, the goal. Whoever says: This is enough, this is how I intend to go on living, the present situation is good and nice for me and I have no intentions of moving forward — that is not peace.

[Peri] Since the elections, Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu has met three times with your ambassador, Muhammad Basyuni, and sent messages through him that he wants to pursue peace.

[Musa] We received the messages. Ambassador Basyuni came to Cairo a few days ago. I met with him and listened attentively to everything he had to report.

[Peri] What did he report?

[Musa] What Netanyahu wanted us to know, that he wants to pursue peace; very general messages. What I say after those messages is that platonic peace is not enough, that progress must be made through deeds. I understand that Netanyahu needs time to form his government and present his platform. From our point of view, this will be very important seeing that all we have read so far in your papers about the platform — concerning Jerusalem, the Palestinian state, the rights of the Palestinians, and other issues — all of it does not sound very encouraging. Of course, it could very well be that this was merely a first draft and that there will be changes.

[Peri] Why is the Arab world in such turmoil? Egypt said it would "wait and see." So why are you convening a summit meeting next week?

[Musa] We tried to call an Arab summit when Shim'on Peres was still in power and started discussing the time and place a year ago. It is not just peace that calls for an Arab meeting, but also the situation in the Arab world. There should be coordination, harmony, and understanding. I believe you heard me say on more than one occasion that all the Arabs should be brought to a summit for the sake of peace. None of us wants to go back to confrontation, nobody wants tension to return to the region. At the same time, none of us will agree to play into the hands of a diplomacy that strives to deprive the Arabs of their rights.

[Peri] With all due respect, to Israelis it looks like the situation has gone back 30 years, with the Arabs in one united front and Israel standing up to them on its own.

[Musa] The fact that you do not like to see Arabs meeting each other is still not sufficient reason for us not to meet. If you are worried, that's your prerogative, but you will have to get used to the idea. Arabs have been meeting forever, but this custom was abandoned or "let go off kilter" for a while. Now we plan to take it up again. You will have to get used to the idea of meetings in the Arab world on the issue of peace and stability. If you also work on the issue, then you will have no reason to worry. But if Netanyahu intends to say "no" about territory, "no" to negotiations on Jerusalem, and "no" about the Golan, you should not address your complaints to us.

[Peri] Those three no's of Netanyahu were part of the election campaign.

[Musa] These three "nyets" are very serious, dangerous, and provocative, but they were uttered during the election campaign, when Netanyahu was still a candidate. We will now see what will happen to the no's, and whether he is capable of and wants to change them and change himself. We all saw Yitzhaq Rabin moving from a certain position to another. When Rabin passed away he was in the midst of a peace move with the Palestinians. Therefore, I do not consider those three no's of Netanyahu his final position. We are definitely giving him time.

[Peri] Do you have any red lights?

[Musa] Certainly. If these do not remain just words and an attempt is made to prevent the Palestinians from fulfilling their right to self-definition, red lights will go on with all of us since it will mean that the peace will not be comprehensive. If the withdrawal from the Golan and from Lebanon is put off and degenerates into a continuation of the Israeli occupation, yet another red light will go on for us. If no negotiations are held on the question of Jerusalem, as was agreed by the Rabin government and Chairman 'Arafat, that will be a red light.

After all, what we are trying to do is to attain a peace that will take away from you and from us, that will give to you and give to us. One must remember this is not an Israeli peace, but an Israeli-Arab peace. There will never be an Israeli peace at the expense of the Arabs or vice versa. The right formula must be found. That is what we will try to do with Bibi Netanyahu, if he cooperates with us.

[Peri] Rabin and Peres changed their political perceptions, but both were forced to pay a steep price. Rabin paid with his life, while Peres paid with his career.

[Musa] I agree. You are either a politician or a statesman. Rabin started as a politician and ended as a statesman, and this was appreciated by many in the Arab world. He started the process, and the process continued after him. Peres, due to Israeli domestic reasons and considerations, did not win the support of the vast majority of the electorate. However, he will continue to be regarded as one of the leaders of the region who worked with strong determination for the sake of peace. I don't think he lost much, only his job.

I very much hope you are not trying to say that those who strive for peace are forced to pay for it with their lives or their jobs.

[Peri] Could it be that Rabin's and Peres' way was wrong? It did not work for us.

[Musa] If so, that is very sad. It takes us back to square one, of watching over one's career at the expense of advancing peace.

[Peri] Egypt has been warning that if the situation does not get on the right track the region will be thrown into a whirlwind of tension and violence.

[Musa] How can violence be prevented? People who are frustrated as it is will realize that there is no hope to fulfill the rights of the Palestinians and that there is no progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and the frustration will be uncontainable.

[Peri] Five Israeli soldiers were killed in south Lebanon this week.

[Musa] And I ask you: What were they doing there?

[Peri] Peres decided to call early elections, among other things, because he did not get the positive signal he had been expecting from the Syrians.

[Musa] It has not worked out so far, with either side. But it could very well work out. The Syrians continue to want to attain peace, on the condition that they have a partner to peace negotiations, not a partner to negotiations for the sake of negotiating.

[Peri] We think the dialogue the Syrians have been conducting with us will lead to an "academic peace."

[Musa] That is correct, but it takes two to make the negotiations "academic."

[Peri] Sir, would you say that the Arab world is today in a panic and hysterical over the results of the Israeli elections?

[Musa] Not in a panic, but worried. There is intellectual tension about the chances of pursuing the peace because of the pronouncements by Likud members. That is why we plan to sit at the summit meeting and prepare for any eventuality when Mr. Netanyahu presents his political platform. Our goal is to strengthen peace.

[Peri] What would you propose us to do about our flagging relations with Egypt?

[Musa] We have peace and relations of peace. Call it a cold peace, a chilly peace, or whatever you want. It doesn't matter. What matters is that there are relations of peace. We also remember very well that the peace accords were signed by Likud governments, and that you are not in principle opposed to peace with Syria and Lebanon. The most serious issue at the moment is the Palestinian question.

[Peri] Are you referring to the withdrawal from Hebron?

[Musa] Those are the indications we are waiting for. We have to see what sort of withdrawal it will be and how it will be done.

[Peri] Will this be Netanyahu's first test for you?

[Musa] Absolutely. From what has been published so far we understand that Netanyahu will honor whatever has been attained to date. Otherwise, it will be very bad.

[Peri] And if there is no withdrawal from Hebron?

[Musa] We will see. If that is the case, we will have lost our confidence in the ability of the new government and its wish to be committed to peace. That is exactly what I have in mind when I talk about a "platonic peace" which would become a peace without meat and without substance.

[Peri] We read in the Syrian papers that they intend to demand that the Arab world freeze the normalization with Israel.

[Musa] That is not what we were told in Damascus when we spoke to them about the upcoming summit. I would like to make it clear: Nobody plans to freeze relations with Israel. We want to budge the process from the current status quo into progress mode, but we cannot do it on our own. What this means is that if you meet with the Arabs, say hello, and shake hands, you will also have to make concessions. Without concessions it will not work. It takes two to tango, and if you refuse to dance so will the Arabs. A great deal depends on the new government.

[Peri] Do you know the new ministers in Netanyahu's cabinet?

[Musa] I know two of them: Netanyahu and David Levi.

[Peri] I get the impression that Ari'el Sharon's return to government is like a red flag to you.

[Musa] How can you ask me such a question when Arik Sharon remains a red flag to most Israelis? The main thing is that I believe he will not get a key portfolio.

[Peri] Were you surprised by the results of our elections?

[Musa] No, you were always split 50-50. There were no big gaps.

[Peri] When you heard about Peres' failure, did you think about him?

[Musa] Of course, and I also phoned him. He is a friend of mine and I highly admire him. Of course, he made serious mistakes, but one should not forget that we worked together for many years. I had to phone him, console him, and share his grief. In any event, we will continue to see each other.

[Peri] Sir, you have been harshly criticized in Israel. It is said you are the living spirit behind the Cairo summit, that you act against us at every possible opportunity.

[Musa] I know, and I don't attach much importance to your criticism. After all, I know all my actions are backed by the Egyptian establishment. Peace is a clear issue, and I consider it a joint enterprise for both sides. As far as I am concerned, peace should be buoyed and buttressed in the security aspect. Here is where the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the strategic alliance between Turkey and Israel, and the solution to the Palestinian problem come in. I candidly discussed these issues with many Israelis, and told them our positions would not change. Your people did not like it. Your press does not like me, but I do not plan to change my positions because of some articles in the press. This does not mean I am Israel's "Enemy No. 1," unless you really want to attain an "Israeli peace" and you refuse to have anybody stand in your way and prevent you from attaining your objectives.

[Peri] There is definitely a chance that the new government will continue to label you as our "No. 1 enemy."

[Musa] I hereby announce that I do not intend to budge from my position, but I am definitely prepared to listen, to conduct a dialogue, and to argue. The problem with you is that you immediately attack back, you think that you can scare the whole world. Do you really think you know the Egyptian character? The Egyptians are nice, smiling, and good-hearted, but we are tough and obstinate when it comes to issues we believe in.

I am the foreign minister of Egypt. I execute policy, I do not get dragged into the foreign policies of others. Whenever somebody opposes you or you think differently, you have the habit of attacking the other person and flashing him a "yellow card" for standing in the way. But peace involves certain rules and reciprocity.

[Peri] Do you perceive a threat to peace at the moment?

[Musa] Yes. With the kind of noes we have been hearing, peace is definitely in jeopardy. It will not last.

[Peri] What will happen?

[Musa] I don't know. Netanyahu will have to take the responsibility if something happens or doesn't happen.

[Peri] Egypt will be hosting a summit with many participants who complain about Netanyahu's political haziness. Why wouldn't you invite him to the summit so he may introduce his political platform and his perception of peace?

[Musa, smiling] It is impossible to invite him, it is too soon. Under conditions of peace he would definitely be invited to speak and explain his positions, but not when there are haziness and "no's." Do you want him to come and present his no's to the Arabs? Just think what the reaction would be.

[Peri] The Arab summit might shackle Netanyahu.

[Musa] We will not shackle him, but he will have to get the right message. He is an intelligent man. I am sure he will understand that a peace with no's will not work.

[Peri] We spoke about a cold peace, about anxiety, concern, and tension. Do you also foresee chances of a new war in the region?

[Musa] No, war is something of the past, not something of the present or the future. I don't want to speak about wars.

[Peri] Could the intifadah come back?

[Musa] Don't expect the Palestinians to come to terms with oppression and the deprivation of their rights. Don't you think they will try to rebel? That is why it is important that the new Israeli government continues to negotiate with the Palestinians and implement their rights. That is what will prevent the intifadah.

Egypt: Musa Contacts Arab Ministers, Comments on Summit Agenda

NC1606143496 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1342 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—Egypt is continuing its intense contacts with the Arab countries participating in the Arab summit in Cairo on Saturday [22 June], Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today.

He added that he held several contacts today with Arab foreign ministers as part of the preparations and coordination for the summit. He noted that the scale of Arab participation in the summit calls for satisfaction.

Musa remarked that the final form of the draft summit agenda will be decided upon at the Arab foreign ministers' meeting on Friday morning [21 June]. He added that the final agenda will be endorsed by the Arab leaders at the outset of the summit.

Egypt: Mubarak Previews Summit, Rescinds Press Penalties

NC1506173896 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received members of the Journalists Association Council led by Association President Ibrahim Nafi', former presidents of the association, and former members of the Journalists Association Council at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this morning.

Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, and the chief of presidential protocol, Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, were also present.

Dr. al-Janzuri stated afterward that President Mubarak emphasized his constant wish to protect freedom of opinion and asserted his backing for the press as a principal tool of democracy, which is the distinguishing mark of today's Egypt.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that Journalists Association President Ibrahim Nafi' made a speech at the beginning of the meeting. He asserted that President Mubarak has consistently been a fair arbiter among the various branches of authority. Nafi' thanked the president for issuing instructions to amend the Penal Code in a way that will eliminate the effects of Law No. 93/1995. [passage omitted]

The information minister said President Mubarak addressed the group, stressing the following points, namely, that he wholeheartedly supports the freedom of the press in all its dimensions, despite occasional, limited, excesses. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak said he speaks with pride at every international forum of Egyptian journalism, its freedom, and its members, adding that he does not allow Egyptian journalism to be criticized and refuses to let anyone interfere in its affairs. He stressed that the press is free and is governed solely by the journalists' conscience. It is society's mirror, he noted, and neither the head of state nor any other official has the right to interfere with its freedom or dictate any particular point of view to it.

The president added that concepts can be corrected via dialogue with the journalists and that this is the method by which democratic Egypt lives, because it is a state of institutions and a free press.

President Mubarak pointed out that his sole demand is that the values of society as a group, as a family, and as individuals be safeguarded. He noted that the cases exposed by the press caught his attention and he adopted measures concerning them, either by issuing instructions to the prime minister or by investigating issues.

The president added that there will be no cover-up of any corruption, no matter who the culprit, noting that he constantly seeks to preserve Egyptian institutions and let the courts have the last say in such affairs. He remarked: When we criticize, we must protect the reputation of the State's institutions and make sure that our discussions—of any issue—avoid offensive remarks. Our dialogue must be of a high standard so that our journalism will be fair and impartial. [passage omitted]

Safwat al-Sharif added that President Mubarak also discussed the Arab summit, his efforts in the past three years, and his meetings with other Arab leaders to remedy Arab divisions, rally the Arabs, tackle Arab problems, and bring views closer to create a suitable climate to hold the desired Arab summit. [passage omitted]

The president said: We want the summit to be a declaration to the world that we are preparing our nation for a new stage after a period of division. We want to proclaim that these divisions have ended and that a new era of Arab unity has begun. He said the summit is designed to solve problems within the Arab family, support the Middle East peace process in the context of a clear Arab perspective that safeguards legitimate Arab rights, and set before the Arab leaders the dangers that confront the Arab nation.

Egypt: Parliament Amends Press Penalties

NC1606132296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—The People's Assembly today approved the repeal of the penalties specified by Law 93/1995, which deals with freedom of the press. The Assembly passed a bill amending the Penal Code in a way that conclusively repeals the penalties that had been specified by Law 93/1995.

The Assembly approved the amendments as they were presented by the Government, but it introduced a new amendment to Article 308 of the Penal Code by deleting the phrase "encroachment on the sanctity of private life" which did not appear in the original Penal Code. Article 308 was thus restored to the form in which it was originally written.

Egypt: Press Syndicate Chairman Meets al-Janzuri, Comments

NC1606143896 Cairo MENA in English 1300 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri today met with Chairman of the Press Syndicate Ibrahim Nafi' and members of the syndicate council.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister Safwat al- Sharif.

Nafi' later hailed the unanimous desire of the journalists to cancel all sanctions that were imposed by the Press Law 93 for 1995.

Nafi' also expressed the journalists' thanks of the role played by the prime minister and his abidance by instructions given by President Mubarak to remove all consequences of the Law 93, noting that all the president's directives were put into effect.

The final touches of the press draft law to be discussed tomorrow by the People's Assembly were discussed, Nafi' said, noting that the prime minister has fully and positively responded to all the issues put before him and expressed a genuine desire to resolve all problems.

Libya

Libya: Al-Qadhdhafi Visits al-Rabitah Factory

LD1506193996 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1900 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gharyan, 15 Jun — In order to further strengthen the gigantic achievements realised by the Libyan Arab people, thanks to the Great 1 September Revolution at various levels, the brother leader of the revolution visited the al-Rabitah industrial complex which is part of the Arab Engineering industries company for manufacturing agricultural equipment. [passage omitted]

Libya: Al-Qadhdhafi—Bombing in UK 'Should Not Be Supported'

LD1506184896 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1800 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 15 Jun (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] gave a statement to JANA in which he said that if it was confirmed that the Irish Republican Army carried out the bombing which occured this morning in Manchester's city center, then it would have greatly deviated from the liberation of Ireland, and this act should not be supported.

Sudan

Sudan: National Democratic Alliance Chair on Opposition in North, South

EA1406224596 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic
1715 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The chairman of the National Democratic Alliance [NDA] and leader of the National Unionist Party, Mr. Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani, has expressed his full support for the memorandum recently issued by the NDA internal branch.

He said the presentation of the memorandum at this time indicated how serious and unbearable conditions had become in the country.

Mr. al-Mirghani went on to reiterate his warning to the regime to hand over power to the people, especially now, when it had been besieged and left with only one option.

He said the ranks of the opposition in both the south and the north had now united on the basis of an agreed program which would hasten the fall of the regime, so that Sudan could once again enjoy peace and regain the respect of the international community.

Sudan: Al-Bashir Rejects Opposition Memorandum on Stepping Down

AB1706084596 Paris AFP in French
1829 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 16 Jun (AFP) — Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir yesterday rejected an opposition memorandum submitted to him last week, urging him to step down. "There is no sense in the opposition memorandum," Lieutenant General al-Bashir said at a news conference in Khartoum, adding that the government has made an offer to opposition members for "dialogue and participation" in government. "Some of them accepted the offer for the formation of a national government of all Sudanese political parties and others turned it down," he said.

In an unprecedented move since Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's accession to power following the June 1989 coup d'etat, the National Democratic Alliance — an alliance of a northern opposition group and a southern guerrilla movement — submitted a memorandum to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's office on 10 June, urging him to step down. All political groups were been banned in Sudan following the coup d'etat which brought Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's military and Islamic regime to power.

"We are ready to develop our political system, but we will never dissolve the government of national salvation," which emerged from the coup d'etat, Lt. Gen. Bashir stated. "We will never turn the clock back, and allow a government based on a multiparty system," he said, stressing nevertheless that the "doors of dialogue remain open."

In an interview published in the Arabic newspaper, AL-HAYAH, on 12 June, former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi warned of a "bloodbath" in Sudan should the government persist in holding on to power.

Sudan: Palestinians Reportedly Expelled by Authorities

NC1706095296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 17 Jun (MENA)—Informed Sudanese sources say that the authorities expelled a group of Palestinians in the past few days.

The sources told the Sudanese nongovernmental newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM that the measure comes on top of similar steps the authorities took recently to expel foreign elements proved to be involved in hostile activities against their own governments. Other elements left Sudan voluntarily, including Saudi businessman Usamah Bin-Ladin.

It is known that four months ago placards were removed from the Al-Aqsa Information Center, from which Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] runs its activities in Sudan, to spare the Sudanese Government embarrassment after the UN Security Council passed Resolutions 1044 and 1054.

The Sudanese president, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, announced at a news conference yesterday that the government is committed to not permitting any hostile activity to be directed from Sudan against any state. He said certain persons had voluntarily elected to leave the country recently.

Bahrain

Bahrain: Minister on Iran's Role in Hizballah-Bahrain

MM1406134896 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jun 96 p 4

[Interview with Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah by Bari'ah 'Alam al-Din in Bahrain; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Alam-al-Din] Are any Iranian elements conducting training and carrying out operations detrimental to Bahrain's security?

[Al Khalifah] The general security organs intensified their efforts and followed up on this matter after information and evidence obtained by the security organs proved that some young Bahrainis were involved in a terrorist organization that they named "Hizballah-Bahrain," and whose aim was essentially to undermine Bahrain's security and stability, change its regime by force, and establish a pro-Iran regime.

The security organs have established that some of these elements were operating under the direct control of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' intelligence organ and received support and finance from these official quarters. The security organs were keen to lay their hands on all documents, evidence, and facts proving the Islamic Republic of Iran's involvement in this conspiracy, and were able to apprehend some of this terrorist organization's leaders and some of the perpetrators who received military training in Iran and in some Hizballah training camps in Lebanon. The security organs were able to trace all the contacts which took place between the organization's members in Bahrain and its main committees abroad. After the security organs unmasked the organization's members, seized all the documents and evidence, and revealed all the objectives of this terrorist organization and its members abroad, they were able to apprehend its elements who gave detailed confessions, confirming that they were all trained by Iranian elements, either in the Iranian city of Qom, or in Hizballah training camps in some parts of Lebanon.

['Alam-al-Din] How did the Bahraini saboteurs travel to the training camps and how did they return?

[Al Khalifah] This organization was established and its subversive directions and aims were defined by some Iranian elements, sponsored by the official quarters there, namely the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' intelligence organ. They made plans to lure some Bahrainis studying in Qom, and some of these fell victims to their conspiracy. These elements spread their nets and subversive ideas and recruited them against their country, Bahrain. They managed to lure some of them and poisoned their minds with their sabotage plans, and then began to train them in the use of weapons and explosives. After making sure that they were fully involved in these plans, they sent them back to Bahrain to try and recruit others. Some of them succeeded in influencing some people at home and involved them in some sabotage operations, which they carried out according to the plan drawn up abroad.

The evidence showed that they set up an organization which they named the military wing of Hizballah-Bahrain and which includes some councils and committees. Each of one these plays a [specific] part in the preparation and arrangements for what they called the armed popular base, with a view to seizing power by force. To this end, they sent some of the individuals recruited at home to receive military training either in Iran or in Hizballah camps in Lebanon. A plan was drawn up for traveling to these locations, either directly or by traveling to other states, and from there on to either Iran or Lebanon. The security investigations and follow-up have revealed that some of the organization's leaders, either those at home or living abroad, traveled to some Arab and European states in order to coordinate between the organization's branches and councils. They were very closely watched and followed by the [Bahraini] security organs.

['Alam-al-Din] Do you intend to adopt exceptional security measures against foreigners and tighten the process of granting visas, and what impact would this have on economic activity?

[Al Khalifah] These are normal matters, known all over the world. Every state tries to protect its security and stability and protect its citizens from anything that is likely to undermine security and harm economic achievements and progress. States try very hard to improve the economic structure and increase growth rates for the citizens' good and prosperity and try to provide security for the residents. Following the discovery of the sabotage conspiracy, whose subversive aims and objectives were revealed and are at odds with international law and conventions, the Interior Ministry has been examining security measures in line with directives from the country's political leadership and out of keenness to safeguard our dear country's common interest and protect the citizens and residents.

These measures are primarily intended to face up to any act of undermining the country's security and stability and guarantee peace and security for all citizens and residents. I would like to make it clear that the security measures are vital issues as far as the state's security is concerned, and are not directed at any [specific] individuals or groups, but rather the opposite. They are general measures intended to protect the country's security and stability and protect the security of citizens and residents. Hence, there are effective precautionary measures to protect the community from any negative consequences or repercussions as regards both the economic and social aspects. With regard to their impact on the country's economy, I would like to make it clear that the country's development plans have not been affected and that the state is going ahead with promoting economic growth. I can say that the sabotage organization did not achieve its objectives, and that the Bahraini economy is strong and making progress thanks to the cooperation of the private sector and the citizens. The economy has always had the government's support.

['Alam-al-Din] Are there any exceptional measures to tighten up surveillance of the beaches, and have any infiltrators entered Bahrain without official visas?

[Al Khalifah] It is a fact that Bahrain has a long coastline, and, because of its long coastline, is considered one of the region's largest states. Therefore, the state's general plan was to pay special attention to surveillance of the beaches through effective security arrangements. That is why I can say that the beaches and shores will be under surveillance in accordance with the established plan, which provides total control over the state's shores and beaches and prevents any attempt to infiltrate into the country without an official visa. The arrest of [the members of] the sabotage organization will only make us more eager to adopt security measures concerning the surveillance of the beaches and shores and all the other gateways. This is a normal matter dictated by the state's, citizens', and residents' common interest.

['Alam-al-Din] Have you relayed the details of how Hizballah-Bahrain was trained by Lebanese Hizballah and their travel details to Lebanon, their return [to Bahrain], and the mechanism of mutual support between them? Did the Lebanese state ask you to undertake specific steps?

[Al Khalifah] This matter undoubtedly deserves attention on an Arab and international scale, especially in view of [the emergence of] the terrorism phenomenon and the attempts by some foreign quarters or organizations to undermine security and stability in some parts of the world. This requires the states, and particularly the Arab community, to cooperate in order to confront and try to eradicate this phenomenon. With regard to what was established through the suspects' confessions about having received their training in Hizballah training camps in Lebanon, it is up to the sisterly republic of Lebanon to examine this issue. We in Bahrain feel entirely confident that Lebanon's wise political leadership will follow up on this issue, because of the historical ties and common interests between Lebanon and Bahrain and in view of their Arab links.

['Alam-al-Din] The Interior Ministry's statement said that the elements in league with Iran intended to topple the regime in Bahrain. How was this going to take place, was it by sabotage or was it through armed force, and what about the role of the army and the internal security forces in confronting such a threat?

[Al Khalifah] The suspects' confessions revealed the Iranian authorities' support for this sabotage organization called Hizballah-Bahrain. The total coordination between members of this organization and official quarters in Iran had reached a very advanced stage, to the point where Iranian official quarters were financing the organization's activities, refurbished its headquarters in Qom, and provided the necessary equipment. Later, further steps were taken in order to achieve their sabotage aims by training some young Bahrainis. They also planned to recruit 3,000 people and give them military training, with a view to changing the regime by force. We believe that the organization was trying to achieve its aims through several illegal methods such as poisoning young Bahrainis with subversive ideas and carrying out acts of sabotage in order to undermine the country's security and stability and spread fear among the citizens and the residents, and by giving military training to individuals in order to achieve their objectives by force. However, the intentions of this terrorist organization were revealed, and its members apprehended.

I would stress that the members of the Bahraini defense force and the internal security force are always ready to face up to any attempt to undermine the country's security and stability, and are able to confront any attempt aimed at interfering in our domestic affairs or hampering Bahrain's peace and progress.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Libyan Envoy—Crisis Over Al-Qadhdhafi Comments 'Contained'

LD1606192596 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Jun (KUNA) — A Libyan diplomat has said here today that the diplomatic crisis that had recently flared up between Kuwait and Libya following statements made by the Libyan president [title as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that infringed on Kuwait's sovereignty and independence has been "contained."

The Libyan charge d'affaires to Kuwait, Idris Dahmani Bu Dib [name as received], told KUNA that "the Kuwaiti officials received the Libyan clarifications with understanding. We have thus overcome that phase, contained the problem, and removed the blemishes over the statement of the brother leader, al-Qadhdhafi."

Bu Dib said that the clarifications "clearly affirmed support for the independence and freedom of the State of Kuwait and also highlighted the Libyan Jamahiriyah's firm stance with [word indistinct] Kuwait and its rejection of the Iraqi invasion of it, a stance that leaves no room for doubt and that was declared from the very beginning."

He pointed out that the clarifications had also taken into account "the respect the Jamahiriyah and the Libyan people have for the sisterly State of Kuwait and its people." [passage omitted]

Bu Dib said that he had conveyed his government's clarifications on the issue to the Kuwaiti officials after the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, Jum'ah al-Fazzani, contacted the Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo, Faysal al-Khalid, and informed him of those clarifications.

He said that "God willing, Kuwaiti-Libyan relations would not be stricken by inactivity and would go forward toward more vitality. This is our task and we must try our best to promote relations and push them forward ... [ellipsis as received] We hope this."

The Libyan diplomat pointed out that "agreement on strengthening future relations has actually been reached" during his meeting yesterday with the Foreign Ministry's acting undersecretary, Khalid al-Jarallah. [passage omitted]

Kuwait: Government Asked To Supply Oil to North Korea

JN1606172596 Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 3 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Sa'd al-'Unayzi]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kuwait—A group of countries comprising the Korean Energy Development Organisation (KEDO) has asked Kuwait and other Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states to give free oil to North Korea to supplement its energy needs until the new light water nuclear reactors are built, South Korea's Ambassador to Kuwait Lee Ryang told KUWAIT TIMES on Saturday [15 June]. Kuwait was asked to provide 25,000 tonnes of heavy oil to North Korea for this purpose in May 1994. The Kuwaiti government has not responded yet. "They (the GCC) are not committed to supplying oil yet," Ryang said.

Oil will not directly go to North Korea but to the multinational organisation KEDO, which comprises several countries including the U.S., South Korea, Japan and some European countries.

North Korea has accepted the building of a light water nuclear reactor to replace its existing reactors that the West objects to on grounds that it could allow Korea to produce nuclear weapons.

Nuclear proliferation is a global issue that needs everyone's co-operation, he said. It is a multilateral responsibility.

The Ambassador called on North Korea to come to the negotiation table if it wants to get out of its crippling economic problems. "It has no other way but to come to the negotiation table with South Korea."

During the dialog, economic issues will be included. "If they come to dialogue, of course we can work out ways to reduce difficulties," he said. "They need our economic aid."

He also hoped that international efforts make North and South dialogue possible, stressing that it is not good to have North Korea isolated and alienated.

Ryang said the North tries to bypass South Korea and deal directly with the U.S. because "probably they want recognition". There is a need for a permanent agreement to replace the temporary one that was signed decades ago to prevent war, he said.

"It has to be replaced by a permanent peace agreement and this will contribute to the stability and reconciliation between the two sides," he said, adding that eventually the two countries will be reunited.

"I can't say when but the people of the North and the South are the same...have the same history, language and culture. Undoubtedly, the North and the South will be united in the future," Ryang said. Regarding Korea's position towards purchasing Iraqi oil, the Ambassador said "there is a possibility that South Korea will buy Iraqi oil." Adding that this will be done according to the terms of the UN oil-for-food deal.

South Korea is abiding by all UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, he said, adding that it doing all its can through its officers in the UN to help free Kuwaiti POWs still held in Iraq.

"Korea is plying a role through the Security Council to contribute to the release of POWs as soon as possible," he said, adding that Iraqi-Korean contacts are done within the framework of the UN.

South Korea is now a member of the United Nations' Security Council. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Normalization Seen as 'Weapon' To Pressure Israel

JN1306124196 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 3 Jun 96 p 27

[From the "Spotlights" column by Jasir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasir: "Using the Weapon of Rushing Toward Israel To Force Netanyahu To Follow Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli elections and its results continue to be the center of attention of Arab political and media circles and all those interested in the Middle East.

Arab circles have dealt with the success of Likud candidate Binyamin Netanyahu as a fait accompli that cannot be ignored. So far, the reactions have been in line with the Arab style, which is to wait for the action and then react, in spite of the fact that the Arabs are strong. In spite of the frustrations and division caused by the invasion of Kuwait, the 22 Arab countries must be able to launch what I call a peace offensive. They could steer the peace process by launching several successive initiatives before Tel Aviv and even Washington and make them react — something that is currently exclusive to the Arabs and the Palestinians, whose role is to receive initiatives and accept what the United States and Israel offer.

Now the situation has changed, because the Israelis, led by Netanyahu, will not offer anything. They even want to reduce what the Palestinians have had restored. Based on the history of dealing with Likud leaders, like Begin and Shamir, it is apparent that they do not offer anything without pressure, strong pressure.

Someone may ask: What can we use to apply pressure? The answer is that we have several things, the first of which is normalization. Yes, normalization, as the term is used by the United States and Israel. According to our definition, it is rushing toward Israel before the latter offers the requirements of peace. We watched some Arabs who rushed to normalize their relations with Israel. Some of these Arabs paved the way for normalization immediately after Peres implemented part of the Oslo, Washington, and Cairo agreements, even though he delayed and obstructed the implementation of many things, including the redeployment of the Israeli Army in Palestinian cities like Hebron, and imposed a siege on the occupied territories that is unprecedented — even during the rule of the most extremist prime ministers, starting with Begin, then Shamir, and Rabin. Peres also committed a massacre during the last days of his rule. Nevertheless, all those who rushed toward Israel failed to protest the massacre because they did not want to embarrass Peres. They wanted to prevent his defeat in the elections.

Since Peres has lost, will those who rushed stop? Or at least use rushing as a weapon to force Netanyahu to adhere to peace? How can this be accomplished? Simply by halting this rushing or any further normalization by those who were quick to trust Israel. More than half of the Israeli voters voted for those who oppose peace, while the others saw peace as a meager issue. But some Arabs were more generous than they should have been and rushed to normalize relations with Israel.

Now is our chance to use normalization, or rushing, as a weapon. It is important to brandish this weapon. If the new prime minister is not deterred and if he fails to continue the peace process, normalization will be frozen and then canceled, and we will get rid of this rushing toward Israel. Through this, the initiative will be ours, and the others will rush toward us, rather than us rushing toward them.

UAE

UAE: Al-Husayni—Jerusalem Must Be Main Topic of Summit Agenda

JN1606074796 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, member of the PLO Executive Committee and official in charge of the Jerusalem file, said on arrival in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] yesterday coming from Qatar that the Jerusalem issue must be the main topic on the agenda of the expanded Arab summit which will be held in Cairo on 22 June.

Al-Husayni, who is touring the Gulf states, called on all the Arab states to adopt a clear and decisive stand that defines the red lines in the peace process. Al-Husayni pointed out that the National Authority takes very seriously the Likud threats to close down Orient House in occupied Jerusalem.

Iraq: Tariq 'Aziz Letter to Rolf Ekeus

JN1406170196 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Jun (INA) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz sent a letter today to Rolf Ekeus, executive chairman of the UN Special Commission, in which he presented practical and constructive proposals to settle, once and for all, allegations that Iraq is hiding documents or banned materials.

INA learned that Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, delivered the letter to Ekeus. Hamdun also delivered a copy to the president of the Security Council to share with the members of the Council.

INA also learned that Ambassador Nizar Hamdun addressed invitations to the ambassador of Egypt, as Egypt is the Security Council's president for this month, and to the ambassadors of the permanent member states: Russia, France, China, the United States, and Britain. Hamdun asked the ambassadors to send someone who represents them to take part in inspecting the sites in which the Special Commission claims banned materials are hidden, in accordance with the arrangements proposed by Tariq 'Aziz in his letter to Ekeus.

The ambassadors of the Security Council's permanent member states in Baghdad were also informed of this constructive Iraqi initiative this evening.

The following is the text of the letter sent by the deputy prime minister to the executive chairman of the Special Commission:

Mr. Rolf Ekeus, executive chairman of the Special Commission, New York.

Out of Iraq's desire to explain all facts related to allegations about hiding documents, weapons, or banned equipment in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and to settle this issue once and for all, I propose the following:

1. That the Special Commission collect, comprehensively and finally, all of the information available about these allegations and the sites at which banned materials are alleged to be, and send a copy of this information to the Security Council permanent members or all members so that they will be aware of the Commission's doubts and the sites that should be inspected.

2. That the Special Commission send an inspection team led by you personally to Iraq to conduct the inspections to verify claims in this regard. This team should continue its mission under your leadership for as long as it takes to accomplish it, without interruption. You may, if you wish, lead the current team number of 150 for this purpose.

3. Under your chairmanship, we will allow the inspection team to enter the sites mentioned in Item 1, while taking into consideration the following arrangements:

A. If the site you want to enter is a sites whose entry is considered an encroachment on our national sovereignty, we will enter the site together — you and I. You may be accompanied by three experts from the inspection team and I will be accompanied by three specialized Iraqi personalities: Lieutenant General Dr. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, Lieutenant General Dr. 'Amir al-Sa'di, and Brigadier General Engineer Husam Muhammad Amin.

Such an arrangement will save us the risk of irresponsible acts by any member of the two parties and will concentrate the work on the set objective.

B. If, after entering the site and seeing what is there, you find that participation of other experts is required to conduct the necessary investigation, we will allow the entry of members of the inspection team as required for this task.

C. It is natural for these visits to take place in accordance with the other standards adopted by the Special Commission: namely, sudden inspection of the site without early notification, surrounding the site by the inspectors to make sure that no targeted material leaves the site, and other known arrangements.

D. If we have no special sensitivity vis-a-vis the site that you ask to inspect, the inspection can be done in accordance with the ordinary standards.

4. Based on the proposal we presented to the Security Council that the five permanent members and the Security Council's presidency send experts or diplomats or anyone else to take part in the inspection operations, we will extend direct invitations to them through their permanent missions in New York to participate in the work of the team you head. This will include entering the locations along with us so that they will directly verify the facts and results of the inspection. We will welcome anyone who wants to participate. If it is not possible for any member to send to Iraq a representative of its country or permanent mission in New York, it can delegate a representative from its embassy or representation office in Baghdad.

5. After the mission is over, you should present a comprehensive report to the Security Council on the results of the inspection in order to put an end to doubts and accusations regarding hidden documents and materials. This will help us avoid any future

problems on inspection of sensitive sites. It will also help the Special Commission carry out its usual work in accordance with the standards agreed upon earlier with Iraq without stirring up problems or provocations.

6. After settling this issue, we do not mind that the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] resume ordinary inspection operations within the framework of constant surveillance of the declared and undeclared locations that are not related to sovereignty and national security.

7. If the IAEA wishes to take part in the work of the proposed team, we will welcome this participation if the IAEA has any special doubts in this regard. If it does not wish to participate, we hope that it will inform the Security Council that it has no doubts on hiding anything that falls within its jurisdiction.

Best regards
[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, Baghdad
[Dated] 14 June 1996

Iraq: UN Inspectors End Standoff, To Leave for Bahrain 16 Jun

*NC1506171096 Paris AFP in English
1710 GMT 15 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 15 (AFP)—UN arms inspectors lifted their five-day vigil outside three Iraqi weapons sites they had been barred from entering and will leave Iraq Sunday [16 June], a UN official said Saturday.

"The inspectors of the (United Nations) Special Commission charged with Iraqi disarmament (UNSCOM) left the approaches of the three sites at the end of the afternoon," an UNSCOM official told AFP.

"The whole team of UNSCOM inspectors is due to leave Baghdad on Sunday for Manama," in Bahrain, the external base for UN missions in Iraq, said the source without giving further details.

An AFP correspondent reported that UN inspectors had ceased their watch over a Republican Guard barracks in the al-Qadisiyah area of Baghdad, where they had been since Wednesday.

Since Tuesday Iraq has prevented the UNSCOM team, which is searching for banned weapons programs, from entering the Republican Guard sites in and around the capital, on the grounds of national security.

Iraq: UN Arms Inspectors Leave Baghdad After Weapons Site Vigil

*NC1606063596 Paris AFP in English
0622 GMT 16 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 16 (AFP) — UN arms inspectors left Baghdad on Sunday [16 June] after suddenly lifting a vigil outside three weapons sites Iraqi officials had barred them from entering during a five-day standoff.

The 54 inspectors of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction were seen travelling on the road to al-Habbaniyah airport, 60 kilometers (36 miles) west of the capital Baghdad.

An UNSCOM official said earlier that the inspectors ended their vigil at three sites late Saturday afternoon and would board a special flight on Sunday to the UNSCOM base in Manama, Bahrain.

An AFP correspondent reported Saturday that UN inspectors, who had parked five UNSCOM jeeps near a Republican Guard barracks in the al-Qadisiyah area of Baghdad, had withdrawn from the position they had occupied since Wednesday.

The stand-off also involved two sites at Abu Gharib, 30 kilometres (19 miles) to the west, according to Iraqi officials.

Since Tuesday, Iraq has prevented the UNSCOM team, which is searching for banned weapons programmes, from entering the Republican Guard sites on the grounds of national security.

The UN Security Council on Friday accused Baghdad of "flagrant violation" of UN disarmament Gulf War resolutions, and asked UNSCOM chief Rolf Ekeus to travel to Iraq to try to resolve the crisis.

Ekeus was due to leave for Baghdad on Monday armed with a "strong message," in the words of U.S. ambassador to the UN Madeleine Albright.

The UN Security Council voted a resolution Wednesday calling on Iraq to give immediate access to the UNSCOM inspectors.

Under UN resolutions, Iraq must dismantle programmes for weapons of mass destruction and agree to long-term monitoring before crippling economic sanctions imposed after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait can be lifted.

Iraq: UN Inspection Team Head Cites 'Very Bad Experience' in Iraq

NC1606130496 Paris AFP in English
1301 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, June 16 (AFP) — UN inspectors had a "very bad experience" in Iraq where the authorities for the first time flatly refused them access to suspected weapons sites, team leader Nikita Smidovich said here Sunday [16 June].

In previous standoffs the "Iraqis had always said 'let us work out arrangements' and later permitted us to visit the site, although after some delay," Smidovich told AFP after arriving in Bahrain.

"But this time it was a flat, and categorical denial. They said: 'no, you will not inspect. This is a security sensitive site,'" said Smidovich, a Russian ballistic weapons expert and veteran of inspection missions to Baghdad.

"It was a very bad experience this time," he said.

The 54 inspectors from the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction arrived here after their New York headquarters ordered them to lift their vigil outside three sites.

Iraq: Regime Reportedly Evacuating Areas Near Military Sites

JN1706142696 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam's regime and the United Nations are preparing for a dangerous phase in the fabricated crisis that started on 11 June. Reports say that, over the past two days, Saddam's regime [words indistinct] camps and facilities in Abu Ghurayb and al-Taji.

Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN commission charged with dismantling weapons, said the withdrawal of the team of experts from the military sites, to which they were denied entry, does not mean the end of the mission. He said the withdrawal aims to pave the way for air strikes against these sites.

In Baghdad, BABIL said the United States is preparing to fulfill the UN Security Council's desire to deal a punitive military strike anytime now.

Our sources reported that large number of merchants have closed their shops to customers and are awaiting the outcome of the recent crisis.

The sources stressed there is a noticeable increase in the price of basic commodities. The dollar was sold at a rate of 1,100 dinars, with an increase of 100 dinars from last week's rate.

Our sources said a number of families have begun to evacuate their homes in the Abu Ghurayb area. Unconfirmed reports also said the housing complex in al-Yarmuk Facility was evacuated. Most of the residents at this complex are staff of the Special Security Agency and the force tasked with protecting the military facility.

Iraq: Regime Said Using Agricultural Aircraft for Reconnaissance

NC1606160596 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just as in years past the United Nations has agreed to allow Saddam Husayn's regime to operate light aircraft in the no-fly zone in southern Iraq during the (?spraying season) to combat pests afflicting date palms. The first such aircraft flew over al-Basrah last Saturday [date not specified].

According to mujahidin sources in the marshlands, light aircraft have been flying reconnaissance missions over their areas. They report that concentrated artillery bombardment follows such flights, which pinpoint the mujahidin's positions and the besieged communities in the marshlands.

Iraq: Press Supports 'Aziz Letter, Criticizes Ekeus

JN1506092696 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0730 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Jun (INA)—The letter that Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz sent to Rolf Ekeus, executive head of the Special Commission, yesterday expresses Iraq's sincere and serious stand, credibility, and faithful, genuine dealing with the UN Security Council, thus placing it before its heavy responsibilites, Iraqi dailies said today.

The newspapers AL-'IRAQ, AL-JUMURIYAH, and AL-QADISIYAH say in their editorials that this sincere call by Iraq is to reveal the whole truth without any falsification so that the inspection teams would not continue their tricks, endless false charges, and deceptive reports which are full of fabrications, illusions, and riddles about Iraq's hiding documents concerning banned materials.

AL-'IRAQ calls on the UN Security Council to act responsibly and to clearly declare its intentions without any beating about the bush toward Iraq, which has shown every honest cooperation in order to close the file of relations with the Special Commission, a file that has been open for too long without any justification, and which has gone beyond any reasonable duration.

The paper says that Iraq is growing impatient with the actions and provocative excesses of the inspection committees, which have for five years been fabricating crises and stirring problems. The paper says that with the exception of the United States and Britain, all UN Security Council member states have become fully convinced that the real objective behind the inspection committee's provocations and charges is to prolong the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq, so that the United Nations would not honor its obligations toward the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 which allows for lifting the oil blockade since Iraq has honored its obligations in accordance with the UN resolutions.

AL-'IRAQ says that the time has come to bring down the curtain on the boring play whose characters are the members of the inspection committees. This play must be brought to an end — an end that should reveal to all sincere international parties and the international community how patient, balanced, and composed Iraq has been toward the series of lies and fabrications that have targeted its reputation, status, truthful stands, and sincere intentions.

AL-JUMHURIYAH describes the letter Tariq 'Aziz sent to Ekeus yesterday as a sincere expression of Iraq's desire to finally settle the pending issues which led to sharp tensions on various occasions.

In its editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH criticizes the way Ekeus runs the work of the Special Commission and his procrastination in completing his commission's tasks over the past six years.

In this regard, the paper notes that the head of the Special Commission no longer updates his schedules of cooperation with Iraq in order to fill any gaps in information. It says that instead of continuing meetings with Iraqi officials and submitting clear and specific requests, he began to send successive inspection teams without any declared plan or dates known to the UN Security Council.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses deep concern over this behavior that is based on information, the source of which is not the UN Security Council, but the U.S. and British intelligence agencies that are well known for their hostility toward Iraq and their aim to prolong the blockade against it.

The paper recalls the failure of 149 inspection teams to prove the soundness of accusations against Iraq implied by U.S. and British information, noting that this calls for looking into the credibility of this information.

In light of the falseness of all the information Washington and London presented to Ekeus's commission, the paper calls for authenticating and verifying every piece of information the commission receives before it levels constant accusations against Iraq.

AL-JUMHURIYAH holds the Special Commission and its head Rolf Ekeus responsible for the delay in implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. The paper says: Iraq fully implemented its commitments according to Part C of this resolution since the end of 1993, which deems it Ekeus's duty to present a report saying that the commission's task is over and that Iraq no longer possesses weapons that should be destroyed.

The paper links the Special Commission's procrastination in performing its duties with U.S. and British intentions to prolong the blockade against Iraq. The paper notes that the proposal by Tariq 'Aziz to dispatch a UN Security Council committee to ensure that there is nothing hidden at the sites which the inspection team wants to enter, as well as his message to Ekeus last night, were meant to draw the attention of the UN Security Council and international community to this behavior. The paper focuses on the Special Commission's duty to adhere to the text of the UN Charter, the need to respect the sovereignty of UN member states, and to comply with UN resolutions related to Iraq, including Resolution 986, which frankly stipulates respect for Iraq's sovereignty while the United Nations performs its duties.

AL-JUMHURIYAH demands that the UN Security Council's permanent member states, particularly France, Russia, and China shoulder their direct responsibilities to end the game to which Iraq is being subjected under the banner of the Special Commission and inspections teams.

The paper calls on the three countries to immediately intervene so that the UN Security Council would establish a clear mechanism for the work of the Special Commission in Iraq and commit it to presenting its information on Iraq to all the permanent members so they can scrutinize the information the commission receives from some quarters.

The paper concludes by saying: The most important, simplest, and clearest duty of the permanent member states is to respect people and their sovereignty. The paper questions whether France, Russia, and China examined the results of the U.S. unilateral control over the decision to lift or maintain the blockade on Iraq. It also questions whether these countries formed technical committees to examine the accusations leveled against Iraq.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations and the Security Council over the past five years clearly proved the clarity of the

Iraqi position toward implementing its commitments under the UN Security Council resolutions, especially part C of Resolution 687.

The paper says that Iraq's clear cooperation with the Special Commission was met with unclarity on the part of the commission and its inspection teams, which have been involved in many unjustifiable provocative acts in an attempt to harm Iraq's sovereignty and national security.

Through Iraq's past experience with the Special Commission and its insistence on inspecting certain sites in which it found no documents or banned materials, it has been tangibly proved that this commission's allegations are false, the paper says. To prolong the blockade, the paper adds, this commission often relies on false and fabricated information to hinder the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which should have been implemented long ago.

AL-QADISIYAH says that Iraq's proposal through Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who asked the UN Security Council through its permanent members to be present at the inspection operations ordered by the executive head of the Special Commission, and the practical, constructive proposals included in 'Aziz's letter to Rolf Ekeus, support Iraq's credibility in dealing with the UN Security Council and the Special Commission and practically proves that Iraq does not possess any banned documents and materials.

The paper says that in case the Iraqi proposals are implemented, they will thwart the tricks of some members of the Special Commission and inspection teams, whose acts and behavior reflect anti-Iraq political intentions under the clear influence of the United States and Britain.

Iraq: Paper Says Cooperation With Special Commission To Continue

JN1606084796 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (INA) — AL-THAWRAH asserts Iraq's desire and eagerness to maintain cooperation with the United Nations and adhere to its resolutions. This refutes attempts to distort Iraq's cooperation with the UN Special Commission.

In an editorial today, the newspaper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: In his recent letter to the executive chairman of the UN Special Commission, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz made a comprehensive and simple offer to the Security Council that would facilitate for the international inspectors their routine and sudden missions without any problems. 'Aziz also proposed a method to coordinate the Special Commission's missions with the Iraqi authorities in accordance with a plan that has specific objectives and a specific timetable.

The newspaper adds that Iraq has left the door open for any inspection teams to carry out their mission for as long as it takes, without any interruption. Iraq did this because it has self-confidence and wants to dissipate the fabricated clouds created by tendentious parties that seek to obscure the truth and fabricate false allegations whenever there is a chance to lift the blockade.

Concluding its article, the newspaper demanded that the Security Council fulfill its obligations toward Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 as a prelude to a complete lifting of the blockade.

Iraq: Paper Emphasizes Continued Cooperation With UN Commission

JN1706092196 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0617 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that Tariq 'Aziz's letter to Ekeus epitomized Iraq's seriousness, sense of responsibility, and keenness to cooperate constructively with the Special Commission. Likewise, it reflected Iraq's legitimate desire to thwart the tendentious attempts to distort Iraq's positive stands toward the Security Council and the international community.

In an article here today, the newspaper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that Iraq's reiteration that the Special Commission must thoroughly and exhaustively collect the information it has regarding alleged concealment and the sites it wants inspected reflects a strong desire on its part to put a decisive end [nihayah hasimah] to the inspections, which the United States and Britain are using to perpetuate the sanctions.

The paper goes on to say: The proposal that representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council be dispatched to Iraq to acquaint themselves with the work of the Special Commission is meant to make these countries aware of Iraq's credibility, of its continued cooperation, and also of the falseness of the claims regarding its alleged concealment of banned materials or documents.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The fact that Iraq has cooperated positively and honored its obligations toward the relevant UN Security Council resolutions throughout the past five years and expressed a sincere willingness to continue this cooperation gives it a legitimate right to demand that the Special Commission respond to its proposals away from the tendentious political positions of the U.S. Administration and the

British Government, which are aimed at perpetuating the criminal unfair sanctions clamped on Iraq and its steadfast people.

Iraq: Report on 'Exclusive Interview' With al-Anbari

JN1506173096 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 4 Jun 96 p 2

[Report on "exclusive interview" with Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, head of the Iraqi negotiating team, by correspondent Urjuwan Hashim 'Ali; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, head of the Iraqi negotiating team, said: We are about to finish the draft of the import-export plan, which will be discussed with the General Secretariat of the United Nations. In a long, exclusive interview with AL-QADISIYAH, he said: Regarding oil, Iraq is ready to conclude deals and begin exporting as soon as the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee has drawn up the simplified procedures needed to implement the Memorandum of Understanding. Work on these procedures is in progress, and it should be over in the next seven or 10 days. What remains, of course, are the various other procedures governing normal commercial dealings and imports. Talks have to be held and deals signed on shipment, storage, and distribution of goods throughout the country. To simplify these procedures under the existing unfair embargo, the Ministry of Trade and other government institutions have set the priorities which will enable us to establish these procedures in good time and thus make maximum benefit of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Asked about the prospects that the memorandum with the United Nations has opened up for Iraq to completely remove the embargo, Dr. al-Anbari said: The embargo imposed by the UN Security Council under Resolution 661 of August 1990 is unprecedented in the history of mankind, since it covers all materials that are essential for the maintenance of human life—such as food, medicine, and other basic supplies—and freezes all Iraqi assets abroad. Indeed, the provisions of this resolution have undergone some amendment under Resolution 687 of April 1991, whereby Iraq is now allowed to import medicines, food, and other essentials with the consent of the Sanctions Committee, which was formed under the same resolution. This committee, which stems from the Security Council and comprises all member states, operates on the basis of unanimity; in other words, any committee member can use the right of veto to prevent the committee from approving the export of basic goods, other than food and medicine, to Iraq. The United States and Britain exploit this veto under various pretexts. For example, the committee withheld approval of the deal under which Vietnam would export pencils for use in Iraqi schools, because the British objected to the deal using the excuse that the lead in pencils could be used to produce chemical substances.

Dr. al-Anbari continued: This is a rather long introduction, but it is essential to understand the prospects which we hope to open up following the agreement with the United Nations on the Memorandum of Understanding. This is the first time we have achieved a breakthrough on the embargo since 1991; but I will not say that this has been achieved legally, since I believe the embargo itself is illegal. The embargo is on the way to being dismantled under Security Council measures. All Council members have expressed their appreciation and satisfaction with the Memorandum of Understanding reached on 20 May. Naturally, this does not overrule the fact that some permanent member states, primarily the United States and Britain, were surprised when Iraq expressed its readiness to reach an agreement on the memorandum under the oil-for-food formula. In fact, they seriously doubted the Iraqi position and made it a point to portray the Iraqi decision to enter into talks with the General Secretariat of the United Nations as only an attempt to throw dust in the eyes and blame others for the continuation of the embargo. I believe that the states that were surprised by the Iraqi move must have found themselves confused as to what their position would be if Iraq managed to reach the agreement that would allow it to export its oil to the world and import food and other humanitarian needs that are essential for electricity, water, drainage, and dam projects. They would have discovered that they not only lost their bets on the talks, but also came under pressure from their own companies, which fully understood the present and future significance of the Iraqi market. These companies do not want to miss the prospect of conducting international commercial dealings with Iraq.

Faced with the situation where the United Nations and Iraq were about to reach the Memorandum of Understanding on 10 April 1996, these two powers began interfering openly to amend the draft of the memorandum and thus present Iraq with a fait accompli, so that it would either accept it as it was—despite its contradiction with the basic principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity and security it has always upheld—or withdraw from the talks. It would then be announced publicly that Iraq was not serious about these talks from the beginning and that it was responsible for their failure and the Iraqi people's suffering caused by the embargo. However, the Iraqi side viewed these amendments unemotionally and coordinated its position with the central authorities in the country. Thus, it was decided to continue the talks, but on the basis of the draft we reached in April. That draft was ready for subsequent ratification, or what is known in English as Ed. Ref [last two words in English], which meant that the United Nations could propose any amendments for discussion with Iraq, provided those amendments are referred to the Iraqi Government for consultation. This way, the Iraqi side managed to avoid being put in an embarrassing situation where it had to accept or reject those U.S. and British amendments. Indeed, we considered the draft we reached on 20 April as the one that should be adopted and that any new amendments would have to be approved by both sides, meaning Iraq and the UN General Secretariat.

Dr. al-Anbari added: As I said, the overwhelming majority of the member states of the Security Council—the permanent members France, Russia, and China as well as Italy, Germany, and nonaligned states—announced in their remarks to the Security Council that they understood the Iraqi position and supported the Memorandum of Understanding. Moreover, they expressed their determination to implement it without any problems from any side. The new spirit emerging in the lobbies of the Security Council represented for the first time a new formula governing relations between Iraq and the Security Council, a formula which takes into consideration the vital interests and basic principles of the Iraqi stands on some of the council's resolutions. This shows that a trend toward total removal of the embargo on oil exports under Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and alleviation of the terms of the embargo on Iraqi commercial imports under Paragraph 21 of the same resolution would be a likely possibility in the coming period, especially at the end of the six-month period which covers the economic side of the Memorandum of Understanding. The implementation of the memorandum would open wide vistas for commercial dealings on the basis of common interests and international competition with all oil and commercial firms in the world, whether in the United States, Europe, the East European countries, the Asian countries, or others.

Dr. al-Anbari pointed out that market conditions and the Iraqi people's living standard will greatly improve when goods and commodities start entering the country. He affirmed: I may also add another positive aspect of the Memorandum of Understanding: Iraqi Government institutions that were prevented in the past six years from dealing with international firms that relate to their fields of specializations, whether in banking, services, or production, will now find themselves dealing with these firms again and restoring the business that existed before the imposition of the unfair embargo.

Asked about the potential relationship between signing the memorandum and making preparations for pumping Iraqi oil on the one hand and the urgent efforts being made to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 as a step toward ending the embargo, Dr. al-Anbari replied: Regarding Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which provides for lifting the embargo on Iraqi oil exports once the so-called weapons of mass destruction have been eliminated in Iraq under the provisions of the same paragraph, I believe that the embargo on the Iraqi people will be removed. I also believe that the removal should take place without the issuance of a Security Council resolution. The removal should take place automatically when the UN Special Commission, which is responsible for eliminating weapons of mass destruction, has decided that the conditions of Paragraph 22 have been fulfilled. It is also possible that some members of the Security Council might try to hamper the implementation of the provisions of this paragraph even if Ambassador Ekeus, chairman of the aforementioned commission, provides proof that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations under Paragraph 22.

['Ali] Dr. al-Anbari, Iraq's talks with the United Nations and the signing of the memorandum have played a clear role in projecting Iraqi power to give and take and reject and accept. What effect will that have on Iraq's relations with the United Nations in light of Butrus Butrus-Ghali's statement about the memorandum being a new, positive beginning for developing these relations?

[Dr. al-Anbari] I will say candidly that most members of the Iraqi side have had the opportunity to participate in previous talks on Resolution 706 of 1992. That practical and technical experience increased their ability to analyze and adhere to substantive issues and show flexibility on procedural and marginal matters. Thanks also to the higher political leadership, the instructions given to the Iraqi side have made it clearly and strongly aware of what the position should be and gave it a margin of flexibility on formal and procedural matters which did not impinge on the basic principles which Iraq has upheld right to the end.

['Ali] Do you believe that the U.S. decision to buy Iraqi oil and the British foreign trade minister's statement that Britain's economic interests with Iraq have been harmed by the embargo are a clear sign that the United States and Britain are backing down as a result of the mounting international support for Iraq which heralds the demise of the embargo?

[Dr. al-Anbari] Unlike other exporter countries with oil-oriented economies and smaller populations, Iraq is one of the major markets of the Middle East with a great absorption capacity. More than that, it has the political will and technical knowhow to achieve development in the industrial, agricultural, and services fields.

Dr. al-Anbari added: Major firms all over the world—whether in the neighboring countries, the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, or Eastern Europe—are fully aware of the significance of the Iraqi market, both with regard to oil exports and imports for production and consumption. Thus as soon as the Memorandum of Understanding was released, the United States announced that it does not object to U.S. companies importing Iraqi oil and exporting food and medicine to Iraq, although it was the first country to issue a presidential order imposing a total embargo on Iraq before the issuance of the Security Council resolution on 6 August 1990.

The head of the Iraqi side concluded: The continuation of the embargo on a state with such a large and significant economy as Iraq would greatly undermine economic relations between the European states and the Middle Eastern countries, including Iraq, and would be a major obstacle to international trade which must be based on free commercial exchange and rivalry between export and import firms. For all of these reasons, there is a growing conviction in international circles, especially commercial, economic, and oil circles, that the continuation of the embargo conflicts with the economic interests of all states and with the basic principles of such UN organizations as UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Health Organization, and the Food and Agriculture Organization, as well as human rights.

Iraq: Ramadan—Country's Exclusion From Summit Decided in Damascus

JN1706103796 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
17 Jun 96 pp 1,17

[Report by Fu'ad Husayn in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first official reaction to the convocation of the Arab summit in Cairo, Iraq said yesterday that it was the tripartite Damascus summit that decided to exclude Iraq from the summit.

Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan told a Jordanian popular delegation currently visiting Baghdad that our exclusion by the Damascus summit reflects Syria's stand on our participation. He stressed that Baghdad is ready to open a new page with all the Arab countries without any exception, including Syria in whose capital the decision to exclude Iraq was made, not to mention the harsh siege Syria applies against Iraq, a siege which by far exceeds what is stipulated in the UN resolutions. Ramadan added: We do not ask Syria to do more than what Turkey is doing toward Iraq.

Iraqi Information Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur denied any knowledge of a meeting between ranking Iraqi and Syrian officials. He said this to Jordanian journalists accompanying the Jordanian delegation when he met them yesterday.

'Abd-al-Ghafur said the Jordanian-Iraqi relationship is a relationship between one people and that the concern shown by news agencies over the future of the economic relations between the two countries is baseless.

The Iraqi minister said his country supports Bahrain against the violence it is experiencing.

Iraq: Ambassador to Jordan Confirms Iraqi-Syrian Contacts

JN1706153296 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
17 Jun 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nuri al-Wayyis confirmed that there are important political and economic contacts between Syria and Iraq.

At a dinner banquet yesterday evening in honor of Nuri al-Marsumi, under secretary of the Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry, who is currently visiting Amman, al-Wayyis said that the Iraqi and Syrian sides went a long way in coordinating their positions on the Euphrates water issue and on recent Turkish moves and practices.

Talking to a number of Jordanian journalists invited to the banquet (not including any AL-MAJD journalists), al-Wayyis added, however, that he is not authorized to say anything more than what he said and that he might not be fully acquainted with how far the Damascus-Baghdad contacts and coordination have gone.

Al-Marsumi said that the situation in Iraq is improving on the economic level in light of the recent developments in terms of permitting limited oil exports in exchange for food and medicine.

Al-Marsumi added that basic food and medicine will soon be available to Iraqi citizens. This will resolve a large portion of the problem Iraq is currently facing, he said.

Iraq: Turkish Forces Reportedly Cross Border

JN1606181096 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1758 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (INA)—Iraq announced that the Turkish Armed Forces have once again invaded Iraq's territory.

In a statement to INA today, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said: The Turkish ground forces entered 10 kilometers into Iraqi territory. This was accompanied by Turkish air bombardment of Iraqi cities and villages on the pretext of pursuing individuals who are disrupting Turkey's national security.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said that Iraq deeply regrets this new incursion and violation of its territory and airspace by the Turkish Armed Force in a flagrant encroachment of international law, the UN Charter, and the relations of neighborliness between the two countries.

Iraq called on the Turkish Government to reconsider its dual policy and double standard toward the situation in the region as a whole and the abnormal situation in northern Iraq and southeastern Turkey. This situation, which threatens the security of the two countries, is the consequence created by U.S. interference and the imposition of the so-called Poised Hammer Force on Turkish territory. This force has a single objective: to conspire against Iraq and threaten its sovereignty and national unity. This is a suspicious presence that creates worrisome circumstances for Turkey, which allowed it.

The spokesman said that the Foreign Ministry reiterates its rejection of any Turkish justification or pretext for the Turkish Armed Forces' incursions into Iraqi territory and airspace. At the same time, the Foreign Ministry demands that Turkey withdraw its Armed Forces from Iraqi territory immediately and holds it responsible for any delay in this withdrawal. Iraq demands that Turkey immediately end the U.S. interference from Turkish territory in order to safeguard the sovereignty of both Iraq and Turkey, in particular, and regional security and stability, in general.

Iraq: PUK Issues 'Clarification' on KDP Attacks

NC1606182996 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Jun 96

["Clarification" by the PUK Political Bureau on recent KDP attacks on the Conservative Party issued on 16 June]

[FBIS Translated Text] O brave and steadfast masses of the Kurdish people, O political parties and organizations, O advocates of peace: Amid an atmosphere reviving the hopes of the Kurdish people for the restoration of peace, stability, and reassurance to Kurdistan, the KDP [Kurdistan Democratic Party] destroyed this glimmer of hope by kindling a new domestic war. A few days ago the PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] sought to prevent the outbreak of disturbance and war through contacts with the Kurdish National Coordination Committee, the Kurdish parties, the Tripartite Committee, and prominent personalities of Irbil. The efforts aimed at convincing the KDP to stop its aggressive intentions, avoid kindling a new domestic war, and stop provoking the Conservative Party, a member of the Kurdish National Coordination Committee, which seeks to end the domestic war. Attacks on the Conservative Party and the al-Turji clan by the KDP leadership are not only illegal, but are an attempt to kindle a new and unfair war that will cause the gravest damage to the national interests of the Kurdish people and Kurdistan. This war serves the interests of the enemies of the Kurdish people. But the KDP apparently refuses to give up its known method. In kindling this new war with the Conservative Party and the al-Turji clan, the KDP is using the pretext that there are PUK members and supporters in the villages of the al-Suqi area.

While we strongly condemn these attacks by the KDP forces on the sons of the al-Turji clan, particularly in the village of Qal'at Kin, we declare that we cannot keep silent about this crime and the KDP's campaigns at the headquarters of the Conservative Party and the al-Turji tribe, which is known for its neutrality, or its campaign against PUK friends and supporters who live in this area.

[Signed] the PUK Political Bureau
[Dated] 16 June

Iraq: Armed Clashes Reported Between Kurdish Groups in North Iraq

NC1706104296 Paris AFP in English 1021 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Irbil, Iraq, June 17 (AFP) — Armed clashes between rival Kurdish groups in northern Iraq have left at least seven dead and 17 injured, doctors told AFP Monday [17 June].

The fighting flared Sunday in the Spilik area 85 kilometres (50 miles) north of Irbil between the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) led by Mas'ud Barzani and the Surchi clan, which is the leading force in the Kurdistan Conservative Party (KCP).

In a statement the KDP accused the Surchi clan of "spying against the KDP and mining the roads in the area. They turned down our efforts for peace and started to shoot at our fighters, obliging us to fight back."

Ahmad Ibrahim, a doctor in Shaqlawah hospital told AFP: "Seven people have been killed and 17 injured, but not seriously. There are no women or children among the reported casualties."

A Kurdish official who asked to remain anonymous, said that among the dead was Husayn Surchi, the brother of 'Umar Surchi, the head of the clan and the KCP.

One KDP fighter, Kawa Muhammad Tawfiq, 27, said he had been in "heavy fighting with light weapons. We captured many people."

Another KDP fighter Tariq Ja'far Muhammad, 24, told AFP: "Six people were killed in our battalion and 33 fighters were injured. A woman was also killed in the village. We captured 74 of them.

"We were not given orders to fight but we had to because they closed the roads and our people were imprisoned by them."

Najat 'Umar Surchi, a member of the KCP politburo, told AFP: "The fighting resulted in destroying the village of the Surchi clan (Kalakin), many women, children and fighters were killed."

In a statement published Monday [17 June] in the London-based Arabic daily AL-HAYAH, Dojar Surchi, a representative of the "Association of Iraqi Kurd clans" accused Barzani's troops "of launching a major attack using heavy weapons and missile launchers on the civilian villages in the Sebnlik region."

A KDP representative in London, Delchad Miran, told the paper the problem had been solved after KDP forces surrounded a village for two days where Zayd Surchi, son of the one of the clan leaders, was hiding "with equipment for spying."

The KDP's main rival the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Jalal Talabani, announced it would support the KCP in the flare-up, but late Sunday the situation had calmed, an AFP correspondent reported.

Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War. [passage omitted]

Iraq: Opposition Forces Claim Explosion at Navy Installation

NC1606155296 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a daring and successful operation a member of the Islamic resistance detonated an explosive charge at the Navy headquarters in al-Basrah Governorate two weeks ago. According to sources close to the incident, the explosion occurred while the naval forces were preparing for a parade the navy commander was scheduled to attend.

The explosion occurred near the review stand from which the navy commander was due to watch proceedings but the incident happened before the commander arrived.

Eyewitnesses say the blast destroyed two military vehicles and wounded four sentries standing guard at the site. Afterward military intelligence and security personnel arrested numerous navy troops, accusing them of involvement in the incident or in its planning.

Iraq: Bomb Explodes in Baghdad 'Last Week'

JN1506132096 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A violent explosion rocked central Bahgdad early last week, killing several police officials. Our sources said that a time bomb exploded inside the al-Bayya' quarter police station, killing three officials, including Captain Khalaf Hatim al-'Ubaydi. The sources also said a high state of alert was declared among security and party organs after the explosion. They added that panic gripped the personnel of these organs during their tour of the capital's streets.

An Interior Ministry under secretary, who came to al-Bayya' quarter soon after the explosion, was quoted as saying that the explosion was caused by a locally-made bomb and that the operation was politically motivate.

Israel: New Knesset Convenes 16 Jun; Peres, Weizman Deliver Addresses

TA1706153396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] One hundred and seventeen members of the 14th Knesset were sworn in at a festive session, which opened with an address by President 'Ezer Weizman. The president started his speech by congratulating Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu and expressing gratitude and praise to outgoing Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

The president said to Netanyahu that the leadership of the nation is now being transferred to the younger generation. His direct election by the people is proof of his talent and dedication to his goal. I am certain Netanyahu will overcome the difficult obstacles and impediments, and I believe that at the end of the road he will reach the coveted fruit in view of his proven ability to fight against the odds.

The president said to Peres that he would like him to serve as a mouthpiece for all Israelis and all Jews in the Diaspora, adding: Thank you, thank you for everything you have done. He noted that Peres' achievements and personality rank him with the great men of the world. The president hopes the members of the new Knesset appreciate the heavy responsibility imposed on them on the road to peace, which must unite the best brains and overcome the internal disputes in the face of the enemies outside. He expressed hope that the new election system will prove itself and have a positive influence on the level of political debate.

Prime Minister Peres chaired the Knesset session as the oldest knesset member [MK]. After swearing loyalty to the Knesset, he welcomed the MK's and expressed hope that the house will run its affairs while observing a cultured level of debate, tolerance, and mutual respect. Peres recalled the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin and warned against the evil of hatred for no reason. We must never permit anybody, especially an elected leader, to become a victim of his political views. He urged the Knesset to uphold the balances the new electoral system has called into being. The prime minister recalled what David Ben-Gurion said 31 years ago: A peace alliance and cooperation with all our neighbors have always been our heart- felt desire. Peres said peace is our yearning and the peak of the Zionism fulfillment.

Following Peres' address, the Knesset secretary swore in the 117 MK's in the hall. Three were absent: Arye Der'i, Yona Yahav, and Dan Tikhon. The ceremony concluded on a new note: the singing of the national anthem. Other innovations were the reading of a chapter from the Book of Psalms and a chapter from the Declaration of Independence. The Knesset plenum will convene in an hour for administrative matters.

Israel: Sharon Accepts Construction Minister Portfolio; Swearing In 18 Jun

TA1706103096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The internal crisis in the Likud's top echelon has been contained after Ari'el Sharon agreed to accept an expanded construction and infrastructure cabinet portfolio. It has been announced that the finance portfolio will not be assigned to Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel, but to Dan Meridor. The latter conferred at noon today with Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu, but he refused to speak to journalists when he emerged from the meeting.

The science and technology portfolio was assigned to Beni Begin, while Moshe Qatzav was offered the communications portfolio, membership in the inner cabinet, and the post of deputy prime minister.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu invited Yisra'el Ba'aliya chairman Natan Sharansky for yet another meeting in a bid to break the impasse. The immigrant party is demanding an expanded immigrant absorption portfolio and an expanded industry and trade portfolio, and that the government's basic guidelines state that priority will be given to bringing down housing prices and building rental apartments for young couples and the needy.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that differences persist with regard to the departments that will be relocated from the Finance Ministry to the Prime Minister's Office, such as the Government Companies Authority.

The swearing-in ceremony of the new government will be held tomorrow evening. This was agreed by Knesset Member Mikha'el Eytan, the Likud's coordinator of Knesset operations, and Moledet leader Rehav'am Ze'evi [doyen Knesset member who serves as acting Knesset speaker].

Israel: Coalition Agreement, Basic Guidelines Presented to Knesset

TA1606184696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Eytan presented the coalition agreements to the Knesset secretary about half an hour ago. Representatives of Likud, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and the NRP [National Religious Party] signed the agreements and the government's basic guidelines this evening. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that

Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu signed for Likud at the Knesset ceremony. He expressed hope that the new government would be presented in the Knesset tomorrow. Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan signed alongside Netanyahu. Several representatives signed for SHAS, including MK's Refa'el Pinhasi and Eliyahu Yishay. MK Hanan Porat signed for the NRP. The Third Way is expected to sign tonight, most likely via facsimile.

Our correspondents report that there is a crisis in the talks with Yisra'el Ba'aliya, which is not joining the coalition at this stage. United Torah Jewry [UTJ] is also holding up its signature. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that the UTJ is now demanding the religious affairs portfolio, which the NRP and SHAS are to rotate between them, at Rabbi Schach's initiative. In the meantime, no agreement has been reached between SHAS and the NRP on who will get the religious affairs portfolio first. Therefore, Netanyahu will hold it for safekeeping for two weeks until the dispute is resolved.

At the Knesset ceremony, Netanyahu said that much work still has to be done with Yisra'el Ba'aliya and the UTJ, and that he hopes that agreements can still be reached tonight.

Some more details on coalition making: The agreements signed tonight state that within two weeks the so-called Norwegian Law will be passed in the Knesset. Under that law, all the ministers, except the prime minister and his deputies, will resign from the Knesset and be replaced by those following them on their party's list.

Meanwhile, SHAS' ministerial candidates became known tonight: Eli Suissa is candidate for the interior portfolio and Eli Yishay for labor and social welfare. The NRP will only know at midnight the identity of its second minister, in addition to Zvulun Hammer, who was appointed education and religious affairs minister. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar reports that the voting has ended in the race between Yig'al Bibi and Yitzhaq Levi for the post of minister of transportation and energy.

Israel: UTJ, Yisra'el Ba'aliya Sign Coalition Accords

TA1706150196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Coalition agreements with United Torah Jewry [UTJ] and Yisra'el Ba'aliya have been signed. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that under the agreement with the UTJ, it will have a deputy minister in the Construction and Housing Ministry who will report directly to the prime minister. In view of that agreement, the status of Ari'el Sharon, who was reportedly promised the housing portfolio including infrastructure, is now unknown.

In reference to the agreement with Yisra'el Ba'aliya, it is known that the party will receive the industry and commerce portfolio and immigrant absorption. There will not be any change in the structure of the Industry and Commerce Ministry, while the Immigrant Absorption Ministry will be expanded to include the vocational training unit — now in the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare — and the Department for Social Integration, which will be moved from the Education and Culture Ministry. The establishment of hostels for 15,000 one-parent families will also come under the authority of the Immigrant Absorption Ministry.

It should be noted that the coalition agreement does not give Yisra'el Ba'aliya Knesset members a free vote on religious issues, but their demand for nonreligious burials and marriages was accepted.

Binyamin Netanyahu will present his new government in the Knesset tomorrow, but the time is still unclear.

Israel: Third Way Signs Coalition Agreement With Likud

TA1606191596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A coalition agreement between Likud and The Third Way was signed a short time ago. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that The Third Way is pleased with the government's basic guidelines and the clause stating that Israeli sovereignty in the Golan Heights will constitute the basis for any arrangement with Syria.

A letter by Avigdor Qahalani appended to the agreement states that within three months, The Third Way will initiate in the Knesset a bill requiring a special majority to amend the Golan Law.

Under the coalition agreement, Qahalani will be appointed public security minister, and the movement will receive chairmanship of the Knesset Education Committee. Earlier, the coalition agreement between Likud and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and the NRP [National Religious Party] was signed. [passage omitted]

Israel: SHAS, NRP Sign Coalition Agreement, Guidelines With Likud

TA1606163896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and the NRP [National Religious Party] signed the government's basic guidelines and the coalition agreement with the Likud in the Knesset today, our correspondent Gil Litman reports. The Third Way's secretariat is due to approve the agreements in a short while, after which the party will sign the agreements, our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar reports. Yisra'el Ba'aliya and United Torah Jewry [UTJ] have not yet signed the agreements. It has been learned that the UTJ wants the Religious Affairs Ministry.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that Likud leaders still do not know who is getting what portfolio. It has been learned that Prime Minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu has offered the Treasury to Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel, and that he has accepted. At this stage, Knesset Members Ari'el Sharon, Dan Meridor, and Beni Begin will not be members of the government. Negotiations continue on Moshe Qatzav's status. Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller reports that there is a crisis in the negotiations with Yisra'el Ba'aliya. It has also been learned tonight that the Gesher movement headed by David Levi will receive a deputy ministerial post, but it is not known in which ministry.

The NRP will know only at midnight the identity of its second minister, in addition to Zvulun Hammer, who is to be appointed minister of education and religion.

Israel: 'Heavy Pressure' From Washington To Form Unity Government

TA1606175696 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jun 96

[Discussion between moderator Ya'aqov Eylon in the studio and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen at the Knesset in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Eylon] 'Imanu'el, you say that the idea of a unity government has not been completely written off?

[Rosen] There is talk all the time, and naturally, if there are crises, as we have already said there are, it is being raised again. As far as we have managed to find out up to now, Binyamin Netanyahu has not telephoned Shim'on Peres. Therefore, nothing is being done about a unity government. However, what we can tell you is that there have been many telephone calls from the United States indirectly to Netanyahu — not directly from the Americans — but there is heavy pressure on Netanyahu from Washington to agree to a national unity government. It is too early to say whether that pressure will work.

Israel: Clinton's Expectations of Netanyahu Goverment Reviewed

TA1406141196 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT [LESHABAT supplement] in Hebrew 14 Jun 96 p 13

[Commentary by Tzvi Rafiah: "What Does Clinton Expect From Netanyahu?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The speed with which the U.S. Administration recovered from Shim'on Peres' overthrow was startling. The deep disappointment over the fact that the President's efforts to aid Peres were fruitless was replaced within days by the hope that Netanyahu the prime minister would be different and more pragmatic than Netanyahu the contender. Senior officials in the White House and State Department told me while I was in Washington this past week how pleased they were with the messages that Netanyahu has sent and his declarations about adhering to the peace process and about continued close relations with the United States. As if either Clinton or Netanyahu has any other choice.

Clinton — one of his aides told me — has invested so much personally in relations with Israel and in the Middle East peace process — much more than in other aspects of his foreign policy — that he will not let it deteriorate only months before the Presidential elections, or afterward, if he is reelected. Netanyahu, who studied and worked in the United States for many years, and has embraced the culture of American government, knows that the beliefs and hopes that his partners in the victory in Israel are cultivating are worthless without the American blanket. It is politically vital for both leaders to continue the good ties between the United States and Israel and to continue good personal relations between them: Clinton — at least until the Presidential elections on 5 November — and Netanyahu, throughout his term.

While Washington is trying to pacify pan-Arab activity, the President seems to be losing patience. He wants to meet with Netanyahu as soon as possible. In Washington, Netanyahu will of course be accorded all the traditional ceremonial trappings with a smile and not while grinding his teeth. More than anything else Clinton is anxiously awaiting their meeting, which will determine the tone of relations between them in the future. Ask Jimmy Carter how his first meeting with the late Yitzhaq Rabin, and subsequently with the late Menahem Begin, influenced relations between Washington and Jerusalem.

Netanyahu's "Americanism" is raising hopes among his hosts in Washington. Unlike Yitzhaq Shamir, who was not well-acquainted with the American government system and the balance of power there, which led him to clash with the U.S. President, Bibi is intimately familiar with the United States, and this inspires high hopes.

Before his arrival, Washington wants to see Netanyahu's "business card," which should contain the following details: A) The name of the defense minister; B) Whether Netanyahu will uphold agreements and evacuate Hebron, even if amendments are made; C) What role he has earmarked for Ari'el Sharon; and D) What position Dan Meridor will have in the inner cabinet.

The President naturally expects Bibi to bring along a political dowry, and not just a repetition of previous declarations.

There is a difference of views among the American peace team on negotiations with Syria. There are those who support a speedy resumption of talks and those who believe that there is no point in pushing Netanyahu on the issue. On negotiations with the Palestinians, there is apparently a consensus on the need to honor agreements.

"We would not be surprised if Netanyahu tries to find direct access to the President while bypassing the political establishment and the peace team," a senior American official in Washington involved in relations with Israel told me. But he must take into account that the administration does not have two camps: one that supports the peace process and another that dismisses it. There is one policy, a peace policy. That is not only because Clinton has invested political assets, which have so far borne much fruit, but also because of tough Arab pressure on him. Clinton received a high grade in foreign policy, thanks especially to the peace process. If the Netanyahu government gives him a "failing" grade, he will not forgive them.

The prime minister-elect definitely knows that at the moment Clinton's chances of being reelected are high. I met Republicans in Washington who wish that what happened to Peres would happen to Clinton — lead in the polls but lose the elections. But Netanyahu must have been informed of Dole's cool response published in the right-wing newspaper **WASHINGTON TIMES** that "a Netanyahu victory will make the peace process more difficult," and that James Baker, who can be considered in the Dole camp, called it "a blow to the process."

Washington is aware that despite being directly elected by the majority of the people, Netanyahu will come under pressure from elements inside his government and party to take more extreme stands. If it transpires that he finds it difficult to withstand the pressure of the extremists — I was told — the United States, through its aid and backing to Israel, will constitute the counterbalance to enable Netanyahu to keep the balance.

The delight of right-wing, conservative, and Orthodox circles among U.S. Jewry — which are not the majority — over Netanyahu's victory did not surprise anybody. But the Jewish community of America feels comfortable when there is deep friendship between Washington and Jerusalem. They do not want to serve as a punching bag between two boxers and they definitely do not want anybody raising the question put to them in the early '80's: Begin or Reagan?

Israel: Commentary Urges Netanyahu To Stand Firm on Security

TA1406184296 (Internet) 'Arutz 7 News Service in English 14 Jun 96

[Commentary by Hagay Segal: "Basic Rules on How To Rule"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The happiness of the nationalist camp — the first of its kind for four summers now — is mixed with a bit of concern, as a result of some of our past experience. Hundreds of thousands of voters who prayed for Netanyahu's victory, and who recited the prayer of thanksgiving when the final outcome became known, are now turning to their Creator with an updated prayer: Let Likud Government II not repeat the mistakes of Likud Government I.

The major mistakes of Likud I were made within the first 100 days of its coming to power, in the summer of 1977, and in essence caused the "revolution" to be wasted. Menahem Begin headed straight for political targets instead of dealing with internal problems, turned his back on the idealistic wing of his camp (Gush Emunim), and hesitated to fully implement the mandate that was entrusted to him. He longed to rid himself of his "fighter" image, and therefore formed a sort of national unity government with Moshe Dayan, and began a relationship with 'Anwar al-Sadat. The consequences quickly followed, and the stage was set for the Oslo process.

Binyamin Netanyahu is endowed with all of the abilities needed to implement the new "revolution," and to prevent the repetition of many mistakes of the past. In order to lead Israel from strength to strength, he must be aware that these mistakes are ready and waiting to present themselves again, due to factors such as the ideological weakness of his party, the decrepit security situation he has inherited from the previous government, and the psychological pressures placed upon him by the media to continue the Oslo process and turn his back on the residents of Judaea and Samaria.

On the political plane, he would be well-advised to let the Arabs alone for a while — not to meet with 'Arafat, not to keep calling Mubarak, and not to wink in the direction of al-Asad. The more he ignores them, the more they will be wary of him, and the more their expectations will wane. The Arabs tend to understand that the Israeli voter has vetoed the previous composition of the Oslo process, and they must not be misled into thinking that it's still "business as usual." The symbolic implementation of a withdrawal from Hebron, or even its postponement, will lead only to a weak 'Arafat protest; he and Mubarak both know that they stand to lose much more than we do, if their intifadah "threats" bring about a renewal of hostilities in the Middle East.

Concerning the Americans, they will remain friendly with us even if the Oslo process freezes to death and the building in Judaea and Samaria gradually resumes. The U.S. tends to go along with Israeli policy, whether right or left, and it will not force Netanyahu to act against his basic ground plan. The American administration will even respect a situation wherein Netanyahu and various leaders in Yesha (Judaea and Samaria) consult with one another on an ideological level. In short, it could be said that the U.S. leads Israel in the direction in which it wishes to walk. Carter pressured Begin to evacuate Yamit only after Begin initiated overtures to Egypt; the U.S. recognized 'Arafat only after the Rabin government made friends with him behind America's back. Similarly, the U.S. stopped pressuring us to deplane from the Golan as soon as it became clear that most of us prefer the Golan over al-Asad. It is therefore imperative that Netanyahu clarify to the Americans as soon as possible that he is not Shim'on Peres. Immediately upon their first meeting, Bibi must introduce to Clinton, who authored the phrase "Shalom haver," the new saying "Shalom batu'ah" (Peace with Security). If the White House becomes convinced that Netanyahu plans to stick to his security principles to the same extent that he stuck by his determination to win the election, Israeli-American relations will be free of one-sided pressures at least until the year 2000.

In addition to the above, it must be noted that the current composition of the United States Congress is at least as hawkish as the National Religious Party here in Israel. Plenty of leading Ssenators and Representatives are more than willing to suspend economic support to the Palestinian Authority, in response to 'Arafat's violations of the Oslo agreements; only the pleas of the previous government kept the money coming. The Netanyahu government would be able to insist, for example, on the full implementation of the extradition clause as a condition for the continuation of the Oslo process, with full support from Capitol Hill.

The tremendous energy the Peres government wasted on building an imaginary "new Middle East" can be put to fine use towards building a "new Israel." The new government owes its voters some extra "Yiddishkeit" (Jewish content) in its educational system, more personal security, more economic freedom, and more attention to the development towns. Most important: It must rule. This is one thing it can learn from Peres — the strength to dominate and direct national policy. Not to hesitate, not to change course because of a demonstration or two, not to be affected by the ridicule of populist columnists. Determination and strength of conviction must be the rule of the day.

Jordan: King Husayn—Netanyhu Election 'No Reason for Anxiety'

JN1506065996 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn met with His Excellency U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House at dawn today. They held a closed meeting which was followed by an expanded meeting attended by a number of senior officials from both sides. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Bill Clinton made press statements. His majesty said: We are proud of the fact that we are partners. We are eager to achieve a comprehensive peace in our region and we are fully committed to the issue of peace, stability, progress, and citizens' rights in the future to live in security and peace in the region.

Speaking about the Arab summit due to be held in Cairo, his majesty said that during the summit, priority will be given to achieving integration and cooperation and insistence on continuing the peace process to achieve its objectives in a comprehensive and just way. His Majesty King Husayn added: There is no reason for anxiety following the democratic election of Binyamin Netanyahu as head of the new Israeli Government. So far, Netanyahu indicated that he will build on what has been built and that he will continue to shoulder his responsibilities in this regard. [passage omitted]

Jordan: Information Minister on King's 'Most Successful' U.S. Visit

JN1506093696 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jun 96 pp 1, 7

[Report by Caroline Faraj; with agency dispatches]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir on Friday [14 June] described His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States and his meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton and senior administration officials as "one of the most successful visits."

In a telephone interview, Mr. al-Mu'ashshir said all U.S. administration officials and congressmen voiced their admiration and appreciation of King Husayn for his unique way of dealing with regional issues.

King Husayn on Thursday held a closed-door meeting with President Clinton at the White House, followed by another meeting attended by members of the Jordanian delegation accompanying the King as well as senior U.S. officials.

The two leaders discussed the Middle East peace process and the latest developments in the region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The two stressed the need to pursue and support the peace process until a just, comprehensive and lasting peace is achieved, Petra added. The agency said the two leaders discussed results of the latest Israeli elections which brought Likud Party leader Binyamin Netanyahu to power, and stressed the need to wait and not to rush judgments that might create an atmosphere of anxiety and fear, which will in turn leave negative impact on the peace process.

President Clinton and King Husayn also discussed the Arab summit to be held in Cairo on June 21-23 and expressed hope that it will come up with positive results set to push the peace process forward.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said that senior U.S. officials expressed admiration of Jordan's policy in dealing with Israel as a state, rather than a party, and its decision not to adopt any political position until the picture of the new Israeli government led by Mr. Netanyahu becomes clear.

The two leaders also discussed bilateral relations and the need to further enhance them in all fields.

President Clinton reiterated the U.S. support for Jordan and the U.S. administration's commitment to meet Jordan's economic and defence needs, PETRA said.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, Royal Court chief 'Awn al-Khasawynah, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Muhammad, the King's military secretary and members of the Jordanian delegation accompanying the King. On the American side the meeting was attended by the U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and senior officials.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the Jordanian delegation had a thorough discussion with senior U.S. officials on Jordan's economic and defence needs.

American officials expressed readiness to discuss boosting economic support for Jordan, he said.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said King Husayn also met the head of 13 large U.S. companies, some of whom had already set up investment projects in Jordan.

U.S. investors demonstrated a desire and willingness to embark on investments in Jordan, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said.

On Jordan's defence needs, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the U.S. administration demonstrated its resolve to provide

Jordan with F-16s adding that Jordan would be receiving these fighter planes soon.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the U.S. and Jordanian sides agreed on a set of practical steps to follow up on points that have been discussed during the official meeting. A meeting at the expert level will be held next week to discuss means to providing economic support for Jordan, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir added in the telephone interview. [passage omitted]

Jordan: Information Minister Remarks at Washington Institute Cited

JN1606125896 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jun 96 pp 1, 18

["Exclusive" report from Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir scotched the idea that the new Israeli leadership may give Jordan a role in the West Bank or in the final-status negotiations, saying that this would be contrary to Jordan's interests.

During a breakfast session at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy — which is the most influential center in the U.S. policymaking — al-Mu'ashshir said: It should be well understood that Jordan has no intention or desire to take up such a role before the final outcome of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is clearly determined.

Al-Mu'ashshir stressed that Israel has to meet the Palestinian people's demands if the aim is to achieve just and comprehensive peace. He pointed out that once this goal is realized, Jordan will consider different options for a relationship with the Palestinians, provided that this be done according to the free will of the two peoples.

Al-Mu'ashshir said that Jordan could play a prominent role in ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, emphasizing that this role should be one of a catalyst and not a substitute for the Palestinians. He said that developments on one track in the peace process, whether positive or negative, do not affect the dynamics within that track alone, but often have serious impact on other tracks influencing the peace atmosphere in the region.

The minister of information said: Support for the kingdom should not be looked at as assistance extended to a country, but one that is given to a model — a model which, if successful, will serve U.S. interests of peace and security in the Middle East. He added that Jordan adopted a neutral position during the Israeli elections and is committed to the implementation of the peace treaty concluded with Israel and will look for new prospects for cooperation.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir called on the United States to reassess economic priorities in the Middle East with a view to enlarging the concept of support for peace so as not to limit it to the Camp David process alone which has resulted in a total of $5 billion in annual assistance to Israel and Egypt.

He advocated that supporters of peace in the Middle East should take into account the potentials of each country within the region, so that the effects of such support are not limited to one country alone, but to the region. In reply to a question, al-Mu'ashshir revealed that during the talks held by Jordanian officials in Washington recently, Jordan asked for additional economic assistance so a to jump start the county's economy, which is facing some difficulties. He said that Jordan will need somewhere between $200 to $300 million to do that.

He asserted that Jordan is undergoing a successful economic restructuring program aimed at realizing a sustainable growth rate and to have open access to international markets. Undoubtedly, Jordan expects a quick economic improvement as a result of the peace treaty concluded with Israel. Jordanians, however, are still awaiting the implementation of projects worth of millions of dollars which Jordan does not have and has difficulty obtaining.

The information minister revealed that Jordan is shortly due to sign a memorandum of understanding with an unnamed firm to build a $2,250 million oil refinery in al-'Aqabah, the largest foreign investment in Jordan so far.

Regarding the upcoming summit in Cairo next week, the minister said that Jordan's approach is that the summit should come up with a positive communique that would invite Israel to resume negotiations on the basis agreed upon by all parties; namely, UN Resolutions 242, 338, 425, and the land-for-peace principle, stressing the need to resume negotiations on all tracks.

Jordan: Talks Reportedly on To Move Hammer Force to Country

JN1706113696 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 17 Jun 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman-based Iraqi opposition sources revealed that negotiations are currently under way to move to Jordan the U.S. Poised Hammer force, which is stationed in Turkey across the borders with Iraq.

The sources added that Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, sent an envoy to Amman to discuss plans in this regard with Jordanian officials.

He also asked the United States, Britain, and France to pledge to envoys he sent to their capitals that they will prevent Iraqi troops from attacking Kurds in northern Iraq if the U.S. force is moved from the region.

The sources noted that the transfer of the U.S. troops was requested by the Turkish Government, which wanted to eliminate Turkish Kurdish rebels, who turned northern Iraq into a center for their activities. Any movement by Turkish troops into the region would compel them to run into the U.S. force deployed across the borders with Iraq.

Turkey has in recent days begun to amass its troops in the region and stepped up its threats against the Kurds.

The decision to transfer the U.S. force coincides with the crisis that surfaced a few days ago between the Iraqi Government and UN inspectors regarding gaining access to several Republican Guard sites to inspect them. Informed sources do not rule out that this crisis could provoke a limited U.S. military strike against Iraq.

The Iraqi newspaper AL-THAWRAH yesterday carried reports from Washington that the United States is preparing for a military strike against Iraq after UN inspectors left the Iraqi capital yesterday.

Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the international commission assigned the task of eliminating Iraqi weapons, is expected to arrive in Baghdad on 19 June at the request of the UN Security Council, which insists that inspectors must be granted unrestricted access to all military sites.

Jordan: Former Deputy Prime Minister Heading Delegation to Baghdad

JN1506114896 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Mirvat Suwadah "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The government on Friday [14 June] declined comment on a trip that a delegation headed by former deputy Prime Minister and Parliament member 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah made to Iraq Thursday in what delegation sources have described as a bid to express solidarity with the Iraqi people.

But the government's declared stand on such issues is that the delegation only represents the views of its members—not official policy—and that the government does not interfere with the policies of political parties in the country.

The delegation, which left Thursday morning, included six deputies, representatives of 17 political parties as well as unionists from the engineers,lawyers, doctors and writers associations. Jordan's Women Federation, the Arab Human Rights Organisation and the Federation of Arab Doctors also have representatives in the 80-member team.

Deputy Khalil Haddadin (a Ba'thist) said that visit aims at "reaffirming the Jordanian public stand towards the Iraqi people regardless of any political tensions."

"Relations between the Jordanian and the Iraqi people go beyond any political decisions and we want to reassure our Iraqi brothers of the Jordanian support," Mr. Haddadin said before leaving to Baghdad.

Mr. Haddadin and other delegation members asserted that the "government did not object to the delegation's visit to Baghdad," which is the second to Iraq since the beginning of the year.

"We did not ask the government for permission because this is a public delegation and the government did not intervene," Mr. Haddadin told the JORDAN TIMES.

Sa'id Abu-Mayzar, president of the Jordan Dentists Association, voiced hope that the visit will help improve Jordanian-Iraqi relations, which soured recently over Jordan's increasing criticism of the Iraqi regime.

"We hope that by interacting with the Iraqi people we will help to restore relations between Iraq and Jordan," said Dr. Abu Mayzar whose syndicate is represented in the delegation.

Jordanian-Iraqi relations began to sour in August 1994 after Jordan granted political asylum to Saddam Husayn's son-in-law Husayn Kamil, who defected to the Kingdom and vowed to topple the Iraqi regime.

General Kamil returned to Baghdad earlier this year after he was promised pardon by the Iraqi regime.

However, he was killed along with members of his family shortly after arriving in Iraq.

This, coupled with Jordan's increasing criticism of Iraq's policies, triggered a deep rift between the two countries.

Lebanon: Buwayz Cited on Elections, Bahrain Incidents, Peace

NC1506124696 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Speaking on the Voice of Lebanon's "Saturday Salon" program, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz described a proposed electoral draft law as contrary to the Constitution.

He expressed his belief that Bkirki [the Maronite patriarchate seat] does not approve the bill, but he doubted that the elections will be boycotted. [passage omitted]

Buwayz asserted that elections will be held unless there is an overwhelming impediment such as an Israeli military operation. He noted that administrative divisions are independent of the election process, noting that raising the issue of administrative decentralization at this time has triggered questions.

Buwayz commented on the cease-fire monitoring committee provided for in the April understanding [between Lebanon and Israel]. He said there is no information that the Washington meetings will be resumed soon. [passage omitted]

Buwayz noted that his recent meeting with a Hizballah delegation was designed to harmonize the views of the state and the resistance.

He said what is taking place in Bahrain has nothing to do with Lebanon, referring to information that Hizballah is training personnel in Bahrain.

He noted that any suspension of the peace process might cause disturbances and further military or political tension. He said a solution to the economic hardship lies in the state stopping payments to unproductive ventures and halting investment of public funds without justification.

Lebanon: Bahraini Envoy Discusses Hizballah Training With Buwayz

NC1406130396 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Jun 96

[Report by Jinan Kharrat at the Foreign Ministry—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Fadil, Bahraini minister of education and envoy of the Bahraini amir, has said that he and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz discussed the training which some members of Hizballah-Bahrain are receiving in Lebanon. He said he has no information that any Lebanese nationals were arrested in Bahrain for involvement in riots, and he denied that he had handed over a list of names to Minister Buwayz.

The Bahraini official accused Iran of interfering in Bahraini affairs and of supporting Hizballah-Bahrain. He stressed that all he asked from Lebanon was cooperation to stop this training. The issue is now left to the Lebanese Government, he said.

Al-Fadil said he conveyed a message from Bahraini Prime Minister Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah to Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. He handed the message to Minister Buwayz because al-Hariri is now out of Lebanon. He said the message deals with bilateral relations and the latest developments in Bahrain. He said:

[Begin al-Fadil recording] [Words indistinct] stopping the training. We informed officials of what has happened, and everything is now left up to the Lebanese Government. [end recording]

Lebanon: Hizballah Decries Bahraini Minister's Remarks

NC1506060196 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday received a message from the amir of Bahrain dealing with bilateral relations and the recent incidents in Bahrain. The message was conveyed by Bahraini Education Minister Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Fadil, who conveyed a similar message to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

The Bahraini minister left Beirut last night. Before leaving, he repeated his accusation against Iran of interfering in Bahrain's domestic affairs. He denied he had handed Lebanese officials a list of those who received training in Lebanon and Iran. He indicated that he had requested cooperation with Lebanon this regard, without explaining the nature of this cooperation.

In a statement issued last night, Hizballah expressed regret at the Bahraini minister's remarks. Hizballah noted that the Bahraini minister's remarks were incorrect and inaccurate and came within the context of the U.S. campaign against Iran.

Lebanon: Hizballah Suggests U.S., Israel Behind Bahraini Charges

NC1506175296 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has reiterated its denial of Bahrain's charges about the training of personnel to overthrow the Bahraini regime.

The party asked Lebanese officials not to heed such accusations. It noted that this new offensive against it is part of a suspicious Washington-led campaign to serve Israeli plans in the area, as Hizballah put it.

Lebanon: Information Minister on Arab Summit, Monitoring Committee

NC1506070496 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 15 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Lebanon Information Minister Farid Makari in Beirut by 'Adil 'Abd-al-Tawwab in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Abd-al-Tawwab] The 8th Arab summit will meet on Friday [21 June]; what can we expect from it?

[Makari] In fact, we can expect much. This will depend on the position to be adopted by the brother Arabs, the heads of delegations and governments who will attend the summit. We in Lebanon and Syria are looking forward to a united Arab position to confront the hazards surrounding the Arab states at present. A unified position, be it in favor of peace or to check aggression, is always useful. When brothers agree on their visions and pursue the same line, their position is always much better than discord and division. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Tawwab] A cease-fire understanding was reached between you and Israel. It is known that a committee was formed to monitor that understanding. But it has not created a suitable mechanism for action. It will resume work this week. Is there anything new concerning the basics on which the committee will resume work?

[Makari] The understanding was reached with U.S. and French support, as well as the European Union and all the countries concerned. Work has been delayed, but we expected that delay in reaching decisions due to the Israeli elections. We did not think that outgoing Israeli Prime Minister was able to give a final word on the matter before the elections. Then Likud won the elections. It is natural to experience some delay, because the Israelis are in the process of forming a government. Naturally, there will be delays.

But as far as the basic principles of that understanding are concerned, we do not envision or accept any change. This is not an agreement with individuals; it is an agreement among governments. There are sponsors of the process and they have not changed their position on the understanding. We hope the committee will complete its work on the principles we established when we reached that understanding.

Lebanon: Fadlallah on Jerusalem Conference Convening in Beirut

NC1506195796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, in Beirut, by 'Isam Hasan, in Tehran, on the "News and Reports" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Hasan] A conference for Jerusalem is being held in Beirut with the attendance of Muslim and Christian figures. Perhaps you could clarify to our listeners what this conference could achieve for Jerusalem?

[Fadlallah] [passage omitted] We believe such a conference could inspire some media but it cannot change any of the rules of the international political game of conspiracy over Jerusalem, particularly in the U.S. sphere. While the United States has made no statements yet that Jerusalem is the united and eternal capital of Israel, the U.S. decision is there, declaring Jerusalem the eternal and united capital of Israel when developments take place that find it suiting U.S. diplomacy to do so. We also notice that Arab action interested in the issue of Jerusalem because it is linked with Arab rights, as they say, is not as strong as it should be to confront the international and U.S. plans that aim to remove Jerusalem from any Arab, Islamic, or Palestinian accounts. We continue to confirm the importance of preserving Jerusalem in the Muslim and Christian conscience and in the mind of every freedom-lover. Under no circumstances should anyone talk about Jerusalem as a city, as the Vatican is doing these days. We must consider Jerusalem a part of a whole and the conspiracy over it a conspiracy over the whole region, all the Arabs, and all the Muslims. Such conferences blow a cool breeze in hot weather. But hot winds might remove this cool breeze.

Lebanon: Fadlallah Condemns Israel-Turkey Accord

LD1406181496 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, June 14, IRNA — Leading Muslim Cleric al-'Allameh Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah at Friday congregational prayers here today condemned the military and political accord beween Ankara and the Zionist regime, adding that it is directed against both Iran and Syria.

He called on world Muslims to try to neutralize the implications of the accord between Turkey and the Zionist regime by adopting a united stand against it.

Referring to the upcoming assembly of Arab leaders in Cairo he said if the assembly should seek to strike a balance in power then it would be a compromise to the benefit of the Zionist regime and would be a betrayal of age-old mottos that have ruled out compromise with the Zionist regime, its recognition and negotiation with it.

He said if the Arabs look foward to their continued life they must develop into a deterent force against the Zionist regime.

Lebanon: 1 Killed, 2 Wounded in Village Bomb Explosion

TA1406151696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1500 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A Lebanese girl was killed and two other children were wounded when a bomb exploded in the village of Hula in south Lebanon. This is the second explosion in this village over the last 24 hours. In an explosion in the village yesterday there were no casualties and no damage. Hula is a Shiite village located close to south Lebanon's security zone.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources told our correspondent Ilan Ro'e that this incident is a blatant violation of the understandings reached in the wake of Operation Grapes of Wrath, and Israel regards this as serious.

Lebanon: 5 Children Said Killed in Hula Bomb Explosion

TA1406165896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Five Lebanese children were killed and two others wounded by a bomb explosion in the village of Hula in south Lebanon. This is the second explosion in this village in the last 24 hours. In an explosion in the village yesterday there were no casualties and no damage was caused. Hula is a Shiite village located close to south Lebanon's security zone.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources believe that Hizballah planted the bombs in Hula to harm IDF or SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e was told that this is a blatant violation of the understandings reached in the wake of Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Lebanon: Hizballah Denies Israeli Claim on Blast

NC1406193696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1900 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A Hizballah source has denied reports by the enemy radio and agents [South Lebanese Army, SLA] on the Hula crime in which four children were killed this afternoon. He said this was an ugly and premeditated crime committed by the Israeli occupation forces. The false accusations by the enemy and its agents are a subterfuge to justify the acts of aggression against our patient kinsfolk in the occupied area and the confrontation villages.

Lebanon: AFP Journalist in South Lebanon Taken to Israel for 'Questioning'

NC1406180496 Paris AFP in English
1744 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIRUT, June 14 (AFP) - The Agence France-Presse correspondent in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in south Lebanon has been taken to Israel for questioning, an informed source said Friday.

'Ali Diya', who also works for Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's private television station Future Television and the daily Al-Safir newspaper, was summoned by the security services controlling the zone on Thursday, he said.

Diya' has not been seen since responding to the order, and he "has been taken somewhere in Israel for interrogation," the source added.

The South Lebanon Army, Israel's proxy militia in the zone, told AFP they knew nothing about Diya's whereabouts.

Lebanon: Media Reacts After Israel Confirms AFP Correspondent's Arrest

NC1606210096 Paris AFP in English
2005 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, June 16 (AFP)—Israel on Sunday [16 June] confirmed the arrest of the Agence France-Presse correspondent in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in south Lebanon, triggering a wave of protests in Lebanon.

'Ali Diya, 44, was arrested on Thursday on suspicion of collaboration with the Iranian-backed Hizballah, an Israeli army spokesman said. Israel originally denied it was holding Diya.

"A resident of south Lebanon named 'Ali Diya was arrested on suspicion of collaborating with Hizballah," the army spokesman said.

On Friday a well-informed source in the buffer strip said Diya had been taken in for questioning by the South Lebanon Army, Israel's proxy militia in the zone.

Diya — the first Lebanese journalist detained in Israel — also works for Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's private Future Television station and the daily AL-SAFIR newspaper.

Hizballah spearheads anti-Israeli attacks in south Lebanon.

Diya's arrest triggered a wave of protests in Lebanon and was seen by press officials and human rights leaders as "an act of piracy" and a "violation of human rights."

The Lebanese press syndicate spearheaded calls for international pressure on Israel to secure his release.

Talal Salman, owner and editor in chief of the mass circulation AL-SAFIR daily in Lebanon told AFP that Diya's detention "is a blatant violation of the rights of the Lebanese people and the press".

"This is another crime by Israel against a Lebanese civilian," Salman said.

The president of the press syndicate Muhammad B'albaki said Israel's action "shows the breadth of the Israeli enemy's anger towards the Lebanese media which has always been able to foil attempts by Israel to fool international opinion."

"It is necessary for international opinion to act against such attempts on the freedom of the press and human dignity," B'albaki said in a statement published by the state-run national news agency (ANI).

His call was echoed by the committee of support for Lebanese and Arab prisoners held in Israeli jails which charged that Diya's arrest "is an act of piracy that violates human rights and press laws."

The head of the union of editors Milhim Karam accused Israel of "state terrorism".

"Israel has gone beyond all limits to silence the voices of those who fulfill their professional duties by revealing the crimes they are carrying out," Karam said in a statement to the press.

A human rights group comprising Lebanese intellectuals appealed for international efforts to seek Diya's immediate release.

Lebanon: 2 SLA Soldiers Die of Bomb Injuries

TA1606105196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier was killed this morning by an explosive charge activated against an SLA force in the Jazzin enclave. Yesterday an SLA soldier, who was badly wounded last week by a bomb near Bayt Yahun, died of his injuries.

Lebanon: Explosion in Fatah Official's Home Kills 3

NC1706083696 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An explosion this morning targeted the home of Fatah Military official Nabil Khattab in a neighborhood in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

The explosion killed Yusuf al-Khatib, Badr Zamzam, and Ibrahim al-Khatib and wounded 12 persons. Among the wounded were Walid Hallani, Khalid Hammadi, Walid al-Khatib, Yusuf Manna', Ahmad 'Uthman, Suhayl al-'Ali, Ruwan Kirbaj, Mariam al-Khatib, Yasir Hamiyah 'Abd-al-Rahman, and a girl called Mirvat, whose surname has not been learned.

According to Palestinian sources, the explosion resulted from a fire that broke out suddenly inside Khattab's home and extended to an explosives and ammunition depot.

According to other security sources, the explosion resulted from an explosive device Khattab's son, Ibrahim, was playing with.

[Paris AFP in English in a related Sidon-datelined item at 0705 GMT on 17 June adds the following: "Four Palestinians were killed and 12 wounded Monday [17 June] when an explosion ripped through the home of senior member of Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah faction in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, doctors said.

["The huge blast took place in the home of explosives expert Nabil Khattab, a Fatah commander in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in southern Lebanon, Palestinian sources said. His two-story home was flattened in the blast which sparked a blaze fanned across several kilometres damaging two other nearby houses, the sources added. An hour after the blast rescue teams were still trying to dig out any survivors from under the rubble."

["Those loyal to Palestinian President 'Arafat are in the minority in the camp which has 70,000 residents. The camp is led by Munir Maqdah, who broke away from Fatah and is opposed to the autonomy accords struck with Israel. His men have claimed several anti-Israeli operations in southern Lebanon."]

Syria: Turkey Said Behind Blasts; Border 'Tense'

MM1706105896 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jun 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salman Nimr: "Story of Four Mysterious Explosions in Syria; Turkish Intelligence Behind Them"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although official Syrian sources continue to deny reports of "mysterious" explosions in Syria, everyone in the Syrian capital is talking about two explosions which occurred in Damascus last month. The first occurred on 6 May. It was so powerful and loud that it was heard throughout Damascus when a booby-trapped car exploded in the al-Basatin area situated between the airport road and al-Sayyidah Zaynab, a few kilometers from the center of the capital. The explosion took place near the home of Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdish Workers' Party [PKK].

A source close to the PKK has said that the explosion caused a huge hole, several meters deep. The source confirmed that Syrian security services, which rushed to the scene, discovered that another booby-trapped car had failed to explode in the area.

The sources said that days after the first explosion a smaller explosion occurred on a building site in the Sahat al-Marjah area in the center of the Syrian capital.

Informed sources in Damascus have said that two similar explosions occurred in Latakia over the past two months: one in a car parked on a main road in the city; the second inside a rubbish bin. These two explosions had nothing to do with President Hafiz al-Asad's motorcade as had been reported.

Reports in Damascus point to arrests made by the security authorities among Syrian Turkomans (Syrians of Turkish origin), especially in Latakia. (It is worth mentioning that the Association of Syrians of Turkish origin, which is a small group based in Turkey, said that a large number of Tukomans were arrested a few months ago, that most of them had been released, and that the security authorities launched a new arrest campaign last month.) However, diplomatic sources say that some 80 Turkomans are in detention.

Observers note that no casualties resulted from any of these explosions. As for the material losses, they were very light. Syrian authorities regarded the explosions as merely messages from Turkey to the effect that Turkish intelligence is capable of alarming Syria at the security level.

The danger of the explosions which have occurred over the past two months lies not in the fact that this is the first breach of Syria's security, which is protected by numerous security organs, but in the fact that these incidents coincide with political and security developments in the region which officials in Damascus believe are aimed at "weakening Syria's steadfast political position in the face of the attempts to force Syria to offer concessions to Israel." Most of these developments involve Turkey, which has signed a strategic agreement on military cooperation with Israel. The Syrian Government is very concerned over this agreement, which it believes will not be limited to military cooperation but could extend to other spheres, especially in the security and intelligence spheres.

Authoritative Arab sources in Damascus have said that during the tripartite summit last week the Syrian president briefed his guests, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, on the scale of Turkish threats to his country, saying that Israeli aircraft used Turkish airports to spy on Syria and to launch strikes on Lebanon during the Israeli aggression in April. As a result of this information, the tripartite summit declared a position supportive of Syria against Turkish threats.

Despite the calm on the Syrian-Turkish border, travelers arriving in Damascus say that the situation is tense on both sides of the border, and that there are sometimes incidents of gunfire from both sides, especially from the Turkish side, which seems to be on almost a permanent state of alert. Those arriving from there said they had seen for the first time large numbers of Syrian forces in the area near the border with Turkey.

Diplomats in Damascus say that Syria has moved some 40,000 soldiers to the border area with Turkey. Meanwhile inhabitants in the areas near the border said that the Turks are provoking Syrian border guards and the inhabitants. They also said that Turkey continues to pump pollutants into the water course of the Euphrates running into Buhayrat al-Asad in the Syrian part of the Euphrates.

Diplomats and observers in Damascus note that the Syrian authorities are silent about all these Turkish developments and provocations, which have reached the point of Turkish intelligence planning the recent four explosions in Syria. Observers believe that Damascus "does not want at present to open a front in the north lest it be distracted from its peace battle with Israel, which has intensified since Netanyahu won the Israeli premiership."

A diplomatic observer said that "Damascus can respond to Turkey by unleashing the PKK to operate across the Syrian border against Turkey's security and stability, that is, if it wants to escalate the tension with Turkey." Informed sources say that a few thousand PKK elements move easily between Turkey, Syria, Iran, and Lebanon.

Damascus is currently seeking to broaden Arab support for it against Turkish threats, and it is surprised at the growing rapprochement between Jordan and Turkey after the latter signed a military agreement with Israel. Syrian officials are also surprised at Jordan's current (media) campaign against Syria and at Jordanian officials' accusation of terrorism against Syria, "when Damascus has agreed to participate in an Arab summit to be attended by Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority, both of which are accused by Syria of weakening the Arab negotiating position, especially the Syrian and Lebanese positions, because of their signing separate peace agreements with Israel," according to a senior Arab diplomat.

Syria: Forces Reportedly Mass Near Turkish Border

NC1606095696 Paris AFP in English
0948 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, June 16 (AFP) — Syria has massed armoured units in areas near its border with Turkey, the semi-official ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY said Sunday [16 June].

It quoted Syrian and Turkish traders who said they had seen Syrian armoured vehicles advancing towards the Turkish border as well as armoured units posted in several Syrian border areas.

ANATOLIA did not identify the area but its report was dated from Nusaybin, close to Mardin near the border.

The London-based Saudi daily AL-HAYAH said Saturday that after reports that Ankara was behind four bomb blasts in Syria recently Damascus "moved around 40,000 soldiers to border areas with Turkey."

Travellers arriving in Damascus from the Turkish-Syrian border spoke of tension there as well as gunfire from the Turkish side which "seems to be on a permanent state of alert," AL-HAYAH said.

The travellers also reported Syrian troop reinforcements "for the first time" in areas near the border, it added.

Syria: Troop Movements, Gunfire on Turkish Border

NC1606124496 Paris AFP in English
1217 GMT 16 Jun 96

[Report by Kadri Gursel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, June 16 (AFP) — Syria has massed armoured units in areas near its border with Turkey, the semi-official ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY said Sunday [16 June].

It quoted Syrian and Turkish traders who said they had seen Syrian armoured vehicles advancing towards the Turkish border as well as armoured units posted in several Syrian border areas.

ANATOLIA did not identify the provinces where the armoured units were but its report was dated from Nusaybin, close to Mardin near the border.

A spokesman for the Turkish army chief of staff in Ankara on Sunday refused to comment on the reports and said the army headquarters was "very calm."

According to the London-based Saudi daily AL-HAYAH Saturday, Syria "moved around 40,000 soldiers to border areas with Turkey" after reports that Ankara was behind four bomb blasts in the country.

Travellers arriving in Damascus from the Turkish-Syrian border spoke of tension there as well as gunfire from the Turkish side which "seems to be on a permanent state of alert," AL-HAYAH said.

The travellers also reported Syrian troop reinforcements "for the first time" in areas near the border, it added.

ANATOLIA, still quoting traders, said the bomb attacks in Syria were carried out by the Islamic organisation the Moslem Brotherhood.

The agency added there had been many explosions in the past week in the Syrian provinces along the 800-kilometer (500-mile) Turkish- Syrian border, but gave no details of casualties caused by the blasts which eyewitnesses said usually happened in the evenings.

The Syrian authorities has carried out a wave of arrests within the Turkic community — Syrians of Turkish origin — who are suspected of carrying out the attacks, ANATOLIA said.

It added that since May Damascus had exerted tight controls on Turkish traders doing business along the border with Syria, only allowing very few of them into Syria which in turn has caused prices of goods in the border region to double.

The U.S. State Department said earlier this month that several non-accidental blastş took place in Syria in May. Damascus dismissed the reports, which it said had been traced to Turkish journalists amid cool ties between the two countries over an Israeli-Turkish military accord.

Many Arab governments have reacted angrily to the accord which allows Israeli air force pilots to train in Turkish airspace.

And Syrian ambassador to Iran Ahmad al-Hasan told the Iranian weekly KEYHAN-E HAVAI'I on Sunday that

Tehran and Damascus were looking to take coordinated action against the accord.

AL-HAYAH said one of four blasts — none of which caused casualties — was a booby-trapped car which exploded in the al- Basatin region just outside Damascus near the home of Abdallah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Syria's decision to give refuge to Ocalan, whose organisation has been heading a 12-year rebellion against Ankara in the mainly Kurdish area of southeast Turkey, has caused friction between Syria and Turkey for many years.

The two countries are also at odds over Turkish plans for a huge dam project spanning the river Euphrates which also flows into Syria and Iraq.

Syria: Troop Movements Said Not Aimed at Turkey

NC1706081196 Paris AFP in English 0803 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Ankara, June 17 (AFP) — A Turkish Army official on Monday [17 June] confirmed recent movements of Syrian troops along the Turkish border but said they were not aimed at Turkey.

The source also told AFP that there had been Turkish troop movements on the Turkish side of the border, but added: "These are routine movements which have nothing to do with Syria."

It was the first official confirmation of recent press reports on the troop movements along the two countries' common borders.

Sunday the semi-official ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY reported that Syria had massed armoured units in areas on the Syrian-Turkish border, but a Syrian official with the Arab League ruled out armed conflict. [passage omitted]

Arab League deputy secretary general Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, and Syria's former deputy foreign minister, said the League was watching developments "with concern."

Syria: Iran, Syria Consider Joint Reaction to Israel-Turkey Pact

NC1606112296 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 16 Jun 96

["Iran, Syria Mull Fight on Turkish-Israeli Air Deal: Damascus"—AFP headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 16 (AFP) — Iran and Syria are looking at ways to take coordinated action against a military accord between Turkey and Israel, the Syrian ambassador in Tehran was quoted as saying Sunday [16 June].

"Iran and Syria are considering ways and measures to confront the Turkish-Israeli pact," Ahmad al-Hasan told the weekly KEYHAN-E HAVAI'I.

The issue was raised during a visit to Damascus by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati last week, he said without giving more details.

Both Tehran and Damascus, who regard Israel as an arch enemy, have reacted angrily to the accord struck February allowing Israeli air force pilots to train in Turkish airspace.

Syria: Cairo Summit To 'Reaffirm' Commitment to Peace

JN1606061496 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 16 Jun 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN comments on Binyamin Netanyahu's extremist policy guidelines to stab the peace process. These guidelines have raised Arab and international fears.

Under the headline "A Summit to Protect the Peace Process," TISHRIN says: To set things right, Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia have called for convening an Arab summit. The main objective of the summit, besides reunion and reviving solidarity, is to adopt a unified position to protect the peace process from all threats. The Cairo summit seeks to reaffirm Arab commitment to the principles of the peace process, as stipulated in Madrid. These principles are based on Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and implementing Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle. The Madrid principles also stipulate respecting the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and setting up their independent state on their national soil, as well as halting Israeli attacks on Lebanon and the withdrawal of the occupation forces from the south.

TISHRIN asserts that Syria demands full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines. Syria will be ready to set up equitable [mutakafi'ah] security arrangements after Israel's withdrawal. The purpose of the Cairo summit is not to close the door to the peace process, as some people say. The summit will reaffirm collective Arab commitment to the foundations and objectives of this process and blame any party that violates these foundations.

TISHRIN adds that the summit will reactivate international efforts to make the peace process succeed in the region in accordance with the Madrid principles and the land-for-peace formula.

The paper concludes: The Cairo summit is required to dot the i's regarding the peace process and reaffirm its constants and not abandon any of its principles, primarily the return of the land. The summit is also urged to close the file of Arab differences, live up to pan-Arab responsibilities, and come up with binding stands. The summit should stress that there can be no peace in the region except a just and comprehensive peace that restores land and rights.

AL-THAWRAH writes about the upcoming Arab summit and about peace as a strategic option adopted by the Arab side. The paper says: Peace cannot be achieved by one party, but through a joint will. Arab response must be met on the Israeli side with a similar response and tangible practical measures to reflect the credibility of the approach and the desire and endeavor to achieve peace, a commitment to international legitimacy resolutions, and the adoption of the land-for-peace initiative, instead of the proposals made by the Israeli side, led by Netanyahu. It is impossible to accept such proposals or say that they might lay the ground for a settlement that ends the conflict and provides the region with security and stability.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the Damascus tripartite summit was clear in its emphasis on the issue of peace and on the need to continue the peace process in accordance with the Madrid point of reference and based on the full return of Arab rights in the Golan, southern Lebanon, Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territory.

The paper says that Syria adheres to the terms of international legitimacy which will safeguard Arab rights and restore what is being usurped of these rights.

In another article under the headline "In the Circle of Doubts," AL-THAWRAH says: Israel — under the Labor, the Likud, or both of them — will be greatly mistaken if it believes it can achieve its security without returning all Arab land and rights. The paper adds: Israel will be more mistaken if it believes that the policy of aggression will become an alternative to the land-for-peace equation, which forms the essence of the Madrid point of reference from which there is no deviation.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: The Israeli Government's credibility toward just and comprehensive peace will continue to be tested and under suspicion until it proves the opposite in words and deeds.

Syria: Summit Urged To Consider 'Seriousness' of New 'Alliances'

JN1706074696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 17 Jun 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Cairo Summit and the Great Challenges," the newspaper AL-BA'TH today addresses the Netanyahu government's program leaked to the Israeli press and the composition of the Israeli Government, saying that the region might be in for anything except peace. The paper adds: The Netanyahu government's program is full of hatred for Arabs. This government is determined to hold on to the occupied Arab territories; it is adamantly opposed to the creation of a Palestinian state; and it insists on the confiscation of more Arab land for settlement purposes. Moreover, this government sticks to Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel. All this is enough to convince skeptics that the hostile and expansionist Israeli policy will continue unabated and even be escalated.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: It is important to underline some basic constants to which the Arabs must adhere if they are to regain their rights in full and safeguard their dignity as well as the future of their coming generations. Arab leaders must work to settle their minor differences and build a common and forceful Arab stand so that they may properly address the plots being hatched against the Arab nation. Likewise, they must lay emphasis on the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH says: It is useful to recall that the new Israeli leaders, with their new-old intransigent program, will undoubtedly seek to uphold this program of theirs by various means. That is, they will seek to complete what they started in 1948.

The paper adds: The summiteers are also required to seriously consider the seriousness of the alliances that have begun to take shape in the region, which are only targeted against the Arab and Islamic nation, not to mention the double standards the United States employs in its handling of Arab and Islamic issues.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Given all this, the Arabs are required to use their upcoming Cairo summit, which is a historic opportunity to remedy the deteriorating overall Arab state of affairs, to shun illusions in order to safeguard the Arab nation and its future. They must work with all seriousness to address the new realities created by recent developments in Israel and elsewhere. They must draw up a full-blown pan-Arab program so that they may achieve the aspired goals.

Syria: Israel's Netanyahu Urged To Accept UN Resolutions

JN1606155896 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 15 Jun 96 p 5

[Editorial by Hisham Bukhari: "UN Resolutions Only Way To Just Peace"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Syria, supported by all the Arabs, announced from the very beginning since she agreed to participate in the Madrid peace conference, that just and comprehensive peace is her strategic option. Since that time, Syria has been showing the best cooperation with all regional and international efforts to make the peace process a success. But every time she tries to open the doors to peace, Israeli intransigence and malice shut these doors tight.

Syria renewed here commitment to just and comprehensive peace last week during the Syro-European meetings which expressed total support for the Syrian just stand.

But peace needs cooperation. Syria by herself cannot make peace she needs Israeli cooperation. Therefore, Syria hopes the new Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, would be positive in his stand for peace. Although there are currently some anti-peace statements voiced by pro-Netanyahu followers, we hope that such speeches are mere propaganda for local consumption and that when Netanyahu assumes power he will exert all possible efforts for just and comprehensive peace in the area on the basis of UN resolutions and the us peace initiative of land for peace.

Almost all the Arab countries are waiting for the resolutions of the forthcoming Arab summit scheduled in Cairo on June 22. Therefore, it is very useful and important to reemphasize the Syrian firm and principled stand which relies on: establishing just and comprehensive peace which is a Syrian strategic option, ending the Israeli occupation of the Golan, South Lebanon and the other occupied Arab territories by effecting Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders and restoring the national rights of the Palestinian people.

In the end, Israel must give back what it had seized by force of arms from the Arab countries and nobody would expect Syria to sign a peace treaty without regaining her occupied lands. Netanyahu is clever enough to realise this fact and he is fully aware that Syria won't give up one inch of her national lands.

In fact, the road to peace is clear and all the Israeli leaders know it very well, but they try to ignore it. Maybe they can make some deviations and still gain peace. The Israeli leaders have wasted almost five years in empty negotiations since the US peace initiative was launched, thinking that they can pressure Syria to make her sign blindly on the Israeli conditions similar to the situation with some Arab parties. But, today, the Israeli leaders have got the message clearly: "that Syria won't bow to any pressure and that her rights are not subject to any bargaining." Therefore, we expect Netanyahu to play it smart and save time by acknowledging to just peace as per the UN Resolutions 242, 338 and 425.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: President Reiterates Appeal for All-Party Talks

LD1606193496 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear listeners, the esteemed Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this morning took part in a meeting held on the occasion of the commencement of the universal vaccination campaign in Afghanistan. He delivered a speech at the ceremony. We now invite you to listen to it:

[Begin recording] [Rabbani, speaking in Dari] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful.

Dear doctors, staff of the vaccination campaign, sisters and brothers, peace be upon you. [passage omitted] At the start of this humanitarian measure in our country, on behalf of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the afflicted people of Afghanistan, emphasizing the fact that the implementation of any beneficial and humane act requires the existence of suitable and reliable circumstances, I declare that the restoration of a lasting and complete peace and the creation of an atmosphere of peace and brotherhood are the main goals of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

We believe the only way of resolving problems is through talks and the achievement of a general understanding. The state is ready to expand the circle of its contacts, meetings, and talks with all involved sides. We believe any problem and matter can be resolved through talks. Once again I ask all parties, groups, and forces to lay down their weapons for good, to sit together and hold talks, and unanimously make a decision on all issues [words indistinct] the Islamic regime and state leadership. Surely, such a decision will be observed and regarded by all. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Afghanistan: Official Denies Hezb-e Eslami's Suspension From HCC

LD1406181696 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hezb-e Eslami [led by Hekmatyar] and Jam'iyat-e Eslami [led by Rabbani] wish the future political administration of the country to be acceptable to all parties.

The point was made yesterday by esteemed Homayun Jarir, member of the Hezb-e's political committee and Hezb-e Eslami's representative in the High Coordination Council, during an interview with the SHAHADAT newspaper:

[Announcer] The Hezb-e and Jam'iyat-e both want the future political administration to be acceptable to all parties.

Homayun Jarir returned yesterday to Peshawar after taking part in the High Coordination Council [HCC] session. Regarding the implementation of the accord concluded between the Hezb-e and Jam'iyat-e, Jarir told SHAHADAT that the recent accord between the Hezb-e and Jam'iyat was an important event at this sensitive time in history. Both sides hoped the accord would become a foundation for a durable peace in the country.

In reply to a question regarding the membership of the Hezb-e in the HCC and his personal comment concerning the recent interview with a Pakistani newspaper by Hazrat Mojaddedi [leader of the National Salvation Party], Jarir said:

[Announcer-read] A few days ago I was with Abdol Karim Khalili, leader of the Wahdat-e Eslami. His view has not been changed and he emphasized the HCC's consolidation and the strengthening of the atmosphere of fraternity between the council's members.

In an interview with AL-HAYAT newspaper, he [Khalili] also said that he regarded the Hezb-e Eslami as a member of the HCC. Jarir said that the recent visit of the Hezb-e delegation to Mazar-e Sharif, and the interviews with the spokesmen of the Wahdat-e Eslami and the Jonbesh [led by Dostam] have proved the Pakistani newspaper report to be untrue. The HCC was originally formed as a result of coalition between these three formations, that is the Hezb-e Eslami, Wahdat-e Eslami, and Jonbesh-e Melli. These three formations are the founders of this council and can decide who is and who is not a member of the council. Those who, because of their own particular considerations, have then joined the council, have no legal right to express opinions. Regarding talks between the Wahdat-e Eslami and the government, he said that Ustad [professor] Khalili was happy about the results of his talks with the government. The talks are going ahead.

Regarding the visit to Washington by the Afghan leaders, Jarir said that he believed the leaders should try to find a solution to their problems [?inside] the country.

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Spokesman on Positive Moves Toward Peace

LD1506164596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed listeners, we now draw your attention to an interview with Mr. Qaribor-rahman Sa'ed, spokesman of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic

Party] of Afghanistan. We asked him to give our listeners some information regarding the progress of Hezb-e Eslami's talks with the government. Mr. Sa'ed said the following:

[Begin Sa'ed recording] The agreement between the Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] has already produced enormous positive results. We can see the positive effects on the nation since the signing of this accord. We hope to make more progress and for a government acceptable to all to be established in Kabul in the near future.

A joint commission of Hezb-e and Jam'iyat-e is now working to establish contacts with all other parties, to convince them to take part in the provisional government. We have no choice but to set up such an interim system in Afghanistan. We are convinced that fighting is not the way to solve problems. The only way to do so is through talks and closer relations with each other, so that we can end the current crisis and save the heroic people of Afghanistan from the fighting. God willing [said in Arabic], the outcome will be both beneficial for the region and for the people of Afghanistan. We have enormous hopes and expectations. In the light of these hopes and expectations, we assure the nation that it will soon hear more good news and will be satisfied. [end recording]

Afghanistan: Taleban Fails To Attract Leaders of Opposition Groups

LD1606174996 Tehran IRNA in English
1735 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 16, IRNA — The Taleban's efforts to form a unified front against Kabul government has failed, said Afghan sources here today.

The group had recently invited, unsuccessfully, leaders of Afghan opposition groups to Kandahar to discuss setting up a coalition.

The political analysts in Afghanistan attributed their failure partly to their differences over the issue of leadership after an eventual coalition.

The Taleban had made every effort to bring all oposition groups under its own umbrella. However, such a status has been challenged by Sebghatollah Mojadeddi, head of Coordination Council of Afghanistan and leader of Nejat-e Meli [National Liberation Front] who insisted on retaining the position of his leadership in the opposition.

The Rabbani goverment had recently signed a peace agreement with leader of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] Golboddin Hekmatyar. Discussions are underway between the government and Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] to bring about reconciliation.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: BNP's Khaleda Zia Alleges Election Irregularities

BK1406153496 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Begum Khaleda Zia, chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP], has congratulated the people, particularly the women, for their massive participation in the parliamentary elections on 12 June. She was addressing a crowded news conference in Dhaka this evening on the issue of the elections.

She made some specific allegations regarding election irregularities in 123 polling centers. In this regard, she has lodged a complaint with the concerned authorities and has called for remedial measures.

In reply to a question, Khaleda Zia said that the elections are not over yet. Hence, the question of accepting or rejecting the election results does not arise. She said the BNP believes in positive politics.

Bangladesh: President Assures Installation of Elected Government

BK1506124796 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Abdur Rahman Biswas has said that he will not delay even for a moment the installation in power of the people's representatives in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution as soon as the constitutional process is completed. He said this at a meeting with ambassadors of various Western countries at the President House today. The delegation of ambassadors was led by U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh David N. Merrill.

President Biswas expressed satisfaction that people from all walks of life enthusiastically and massively participated in the election. He said that everyone should gladly accept the election results. The president said that he will be happy if a new government is formed according to the provisions of the Constitution. Members of the delegation appreciated the president's important role in resolving the political crisis through the free, fair, and impartial general elections.

Bangladesh: Jatiya Party To Support Awami League in Goverment

BK1706075196 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 17 Jun 96

[Report by Nadeem Qadir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, June 17 (AFP) — Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the daughter of Bangladesh's founding leader, is set to become the nation's second female prime minister, following the confirmation that the Jatiya Party (JP) will throw its weight behind her.

Party sources Monday said Wajed's Awami League was now confident of forming Bangladesh's next government after the JP of jailed former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad reaffirmed its support Sunday night.

"Yes, of course, we have lent support to (the) Awami League," JP secretary-general Anwar Hossain told reporters late Sunday.

He added: "Those who expressed different views did that in their personal capacity, (and) it is sure that those views in no way can undo the statement issued by myself and party acting chief Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury" on Saturday.

His comments, which ended a day of confusion over the party's role when it emerged as the power broker after the June 12 general elections, followed 90-minute talks with Awami League chief and prime minister-apparent Wajed.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Wajed's father, led Bangladesh to independence from Pakistan in 1971. He was killed and his post-independence government toppled during a 1975 bloody military coup.

Ershad's brother, G.M. Kader, also elected on a Jatiya ticket, was at the talks along with other senior leaders.

The JP leader's wife, Raushan, met Ershad at prison Sunday night and later told the Janaknatha newspaper: "I have no objection to the statement issued, but it would have been better to have arrived at such a decision in a party meeting."

Ershad, who ruled Bangladesh with an iron fist for nearly nine years, is serving a 13-year prison term for graft. He won five seats, the maximum permitted for each candidate, in the June 12 elections.

In a handwritten letter, published in the Banglobazar Patrika newspaper, Ershad said he was authorising Hossain and his brother to negotiate the support for the Awami League.

It was still unclear what the conditions were, but apparently Ershad's release was a key consideration. However, a League spokesman told AFP that Wajed maintained her government would allow "the laws of the land to take its own course" in the case.

A presidential palace source said diplomats and politicians from leading parties had held talks with President Abdur Rahman Biswas over the past few days. "We have no fascination for any party, but we would like to see the constitutional process followed," he quoted the diplomats as telling Biswas.

The source added that Biswas, a member of former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), maintained that he would follow the constitution and call upon the majority party to form the new government.

"Most likely, if all goes well, the new government will take the oath of office around June 24," he said, referring to the end of the election process after repolling on Wednesday in 27 constituencies.

Newspapers reported the BNP was still trying to woo the JP, but political commentators said it was unlikely that Ershad would reverse his stand, as he held the BNP responsible for his jailing.

The Awami League now leads a bloc of 167 seats in the 300-seat parliament — 134 of its own, plus the support of one independent MP, the JP's 29 seats and two seats held by two smaller ally parties.

A total 151 out of 300 parliamentary seats is needed for an absolute majority.

Zia's BNP holds 104 seats.

MPs will select another 30 seats reserved for women when parliament convenes.

The election commission has gazetted 273 results, despite the BNP's demand that results be witheld until their complaints regarding irregularities in 111 constituncies were investigated.

Bangladesh: Foreign Observers Praise 'Free, Fair' Election

BK1406140996 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] European election observers believe the parliamentary elections in Bangladesh were free and fair. They think the election results adequately reflect the choice of the people of Bangladesh and say the result should be accepted by all parties.

Zulueta, the leader of the European Union observers group, addressing a press conference in Dhaka this afternoon, said 29 members of the European Union [word indistinct] and three observers from Norway monitored the election. The European observers visited 170 polling centers throughout Bangladesh on election day.

The election observers group called upon the political parties of Bangladesh to accept the election results and thereby lead the politics of the country into the future. Senator [as heard] Zulueta said the observers group was allowed to see vote counting in all areas. He said this is a basic element in the transparency of the democratic process. The European Union observers group expressed the view that the elections were conducted in accordance with [word indistinct] and the people of Bangladesh cast their votes in accordance with their choice in a democratic manner. The group praised the caretaker government and the Election Commission for [word indistinct] carrying out their responsibility. The European observers group added that this election was conducted in a peaceful and (?orderly manner).

Earlier, the National Democratic Institute [NDI] observers group said the elections held in Bangladesh on 12 June were generally peaceful, fair, and smoothly conducted. This was stated by the leaders of the group — former U.S. Congressmen Stephen Solarz and former Australian Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock — while commenting on the Bangladesh general elections at a news conference in Dhaka today. The NDI representatives congratulated the people of Bangladesh for their big success and commitment to democracy.

Bangladesh: Troops Redeployed To Check Unrest During Repolling

BK1706083196 Hong Kong AFP in English 0830 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, June 17 (AFP) — Authorities here redeployed troops Monday to check violent unrest ahead of Wednesday's repolling in 27 parliamentary constituencies, as the election-related death toll rose to 13.

The official BSS news agency Monday reported that troops would be deployed to assist police in maintaining order. Authorities reimposed a ban on carrying weapons in the 13 districts where repolling will be held.

During general elections last Wednesday, seven people were killed in sporadic clashes that also left 100 injured. Six more have been killed in the polling aftermath, taking the death toll to 13.

Most of the victims were activists from either the Awami League of prime minister-apparent Sheikh Hasina Wajed or Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), killed in clashes between the two parties. The parties have blamed each other for using "political terrorism" on each other's workers.

More than 200 people died during the previous general elections in February, which were boycotted by all major parties except the then-ruling BNP.

The government ordered reinforcements of troops and Bangladesh Rifles militia in the southern district of Chittagong, where minority Hindus were reportedly harassed and barred from voting last week by unidentified persons.

Elections in several centres in the district were suspended, as foreign observers said they had reports of Hindu voters being threatened with rape, house-burning and beatings if they voted.

Heavy police reinforcements were also placed around Wajed's residence ahead of the polling.

Bangladesh: Sources Say General Dismissed From Service

BK1406122596 Hong Kong AFP in English 1219 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, June 14 (AFP) — Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Muhammad Nasim, who led an abortive rebellion in Bangladesh last month, has been dismissed from the services and is to be freed later Friday [14 June], reliable defence sources told AFP.

The sources said President Abdur Rahman Biswas, took the decision on the basis of the military court of enquiry report.

Nasim, who was army chief, and six others were dismissed, while four others later implicated in the May 20 revolt were forced to resign.

All the men are to be released, the sources said.

"Nasim and the others will move to their respective residences from an army guest house where they had been held," since the revolt, one source said.

Bangladesh: 7 Army Officers Dismissed, 4 Compulsorily Retired

BK1606083596 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seven officers have been dismissed and four others compulsorily retired from the service of Bangladesh Army. An ISPR [Inter Service Public Relations] press release issued in Dhaka yesterday said this was done on the basis of recommendations of the court of inquiry constituted to probe the incidents on the 20th of last month in the Army. It said considering the participation and role of the accused officers in a war of liberation, this minimum penalty under the provisions of the Army Act was awarded.

The dismissed officers are: Lieutenant General A.S.M. Nasim Bir Bikram; Major General Mohammad Ainuddin Bir Pratik; Maj. Gen. Ghulam (?Jalal) Morshed Khan Bir Bikram; Brigadier K.M. Abu Baker Bir Pratik; Brig. Fazlur Rahman; Brig. Mohammad Zillur Rahman; and Brig. Shafi Mohammad Mahbub.

The compulsorily retired Army officers are: Maj. Gen. Syed Mohammad Ibrahim Bir Pratik; Brig. Mohammad Azizul Haq; Lieutenant Colonel Anisul Haq (?Mirdha); and Maj. Syed Mahmud Hasan. The dismissal and retirement orders came into effect on Friday [14 June] last.

India

India: RSS Favors 'National Consensus' on CTBT

BK1406142696 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jun 96 p 8

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Rajendra Singh, popularly known as Rajju Bhaiyya, has stressed the need for evolving "national consensus" on the issue of signing the Comprehensive Test Ban treaty (CTBT).

Talking to reporters here on Wednesday [12 Jun] evening, he said nuclear arms were only a "deterrent and not an attacking weapon". "Our nuclear programme was only for peaceful purposes. Hence the ongoing research in this field should not be abandoned. The same formula is applicable to the research and development (R&D) in missile technology," he added.

The RSS chief said: "We should not sign the CTBT unless there is complete disarmament worldwide." Asked whether Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's "nod" for Indo-Pak trade ties had "snatched" a major poll issue from BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Mr Singh said it was solely the BJP's concern.

India: Government Gives 'Full Support' to Missile Program

BK1406133096 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jun 96 p 7

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defence Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav who conducted a review of various projects of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), including the missile programme, on Thursday [13 Jun] said: "If we are militarily weak, war will be thrust on us. If we are strong there will be no war waged on us."

This general observation was the only official reaction available to the reports from Washington that Pakistan has deployed M-11 China-made missiles with nuclear capability. But there was little doubt about the Indian indignation, more specially in the light of the continuing debate on the nuclear option within the country and mounting pressure to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the month-end.

Mr Yadav's commended the work of the DRDO and assured the government's full support in "self-reliant development, production and induction."

Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) director, Air Commodore (Rtd) Jasjit Singh said the United States had been trying to pretend "that M-11's don't exist. That they are only components."

If the U.S. rationale in asking India not to continue with its missile development programme was that the M-11's don't exist, now that it has become more than evident that they do, there is every justification that "Prithvi" should be deployed with the Army and "Agni" be developed, tested and deployed.

"If Pakistan, China, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and others in the region have missiles, then it is only logical that we have our own missiles," Jasjit Singh said.

The issue really was with the U.S. which lifted sanctions, only of the milder category-2 variety, within six months after it imposed on China, while the sanctions on Pakistan lapsed last year. It was more a U.S. problem, but India was direly affected, he said.

India: Former Minister Says Missile Development Unavoidable

BK1406133896 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 14 Jun 96 p 10

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former Prime Minister [PM] V.P. Singh has said that India was left with no option except going ahead with its missile development programme in the light of the reported deployment of M-11 missiles by Pakistan.

Speaking to newsmen here today, Mr Singh conceded the "futility of it all. But we cannot," he asserted, "keep our flanks open..."

However, the former premier welcomed the recent initiatives for the resumption of bilateral talks between India and Pakistan. "The entire gamut of relations," he felt, "should be discussed without predetermined solutions to problems. The two sides must look for opening wherever they are available."

Mr Singh also lauded Islamabad's reported inclination to open trade with New Delhi while stating that the Benazir Bhutto government should come out with a "policy statement" on the subject. He remarked: "There can be no conclusive war between the two countries. So, why lock up resources in arming ourselves."

Recalling his visit to Karachi on Ms Bhutto's invitation before she came to power the second time in 1993, the former PM observed that when he was the finance minister in the Rajiv Gandhi government, a battle tank cost nearly one crore rupees, an amount with which a 100 primary school buildings could be constructed.

Mr Singh admitted that there were no overnight solutions to Indo-Pakistan disputes. "But future generations in the two countries," he said, "will raise questions...Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) are necessary to normalise bilateral ties."

On the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) currently under negotiation in Geneva, under the aegis of the UN Conference on Disarmament (CD), Mr Singh refused to express an opinion. All that he was willing to state was that the Deve Gowda government "will certainly keep the larger interests of the country in view while formulating its position on the sensitive issue".

"The display of missiles by Pakistan," he said, "is a matter of concern. I had also told my interlocutors in Karachi that if we get into this syndrome, there would be no end to it."

On the domestic front, the former PM said that a Constitution Amendment Bill should be brought during the forthcoming Budget Session for 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures: "Any talk of social justice has no meaning without gender justice..."

He argued that reservation in legislatures would be a significant step towards the empowerment of women who have been the victims of a "feudal" mind-set having its roots in deep social prejudices. "Public opinion should be mobilised in support of the prime minister's appeal to political parties on this issue," he remarked.

As for the farm sector which Mr Singh noted was quite close to Mr Gowda's heart, the need of the hour was to rid it from all de jure and de facto restrictions, including value-added controls. "China could forge ahead," he said, "only after strengthening its farm sector..."

India: Spokesman Comments on Steps To Counter Missile Threat

BK1406141996 Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by K.K. Katyal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "India will take all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perception" — this was the comment of the Foreign Office spokesman today on reports in the U.S. press regarding deployment of the China-supplied M-11 missiles by Pakistan.

The acquisition of these missiles, it was pointed out, was well-known and a "matter of grave concern to us". Though New Delhi did not have details on the deployment aspect, it was the first to draw the attention of the U.S. and the rest of the world community, long time ago, to the dangers to India posed by the China-Pakistan nexus on missile and nuclear supplies, in violation of the various restrictive regimes. It was only when the U.S. intelligence agencies confirmed these supplies that the Western world began taking notice of it. The government, according to the spokesman, was ascertaining the report about deployment through various sources, including the U.S. It did not have full information with it, when the brief statement — expressing concern and the resolve to safeguard national interests — was issued. A detailed reaction may come later.

A spokesman of the U.S. Embassy explained that Washington had yet to make a determination that either China or Pakistan had engaged in activities, inconsistent with the U.S. law. The reports on the subject were being monitored and carefully evaluated, he said, adding: "We have imposed sanctions in the past and will not hesitate from doing so in future if we make the determination" (that there had been a violation of the U.S. law). In its interaction with the External Affairs Ministry today, the U.S. Embassy made the same points.

While the official comment, though sharp, was brief and confined to re-statement of the known stand, there were insistent demands for intensifying the missile development programme and for other similar measures from non-official camp — by the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], in particular.

Mr. Singh wanted the government to go ahead with its programme for Prithvi missiles, because "we cannot keep our flanks open". The BJP, through a statement by its two office-bearers, referred to the reports of U.S. agencies on the China-Pakistan nexus in the fields of nuclear weapons and missile delivery system, and specified the counter-measures needed to be taken now by the government. In particular, the BJP urged that 1) production of nuclear warheads for the missile systems be commenced. 2) Prithvi missiles be issued to the Army and the Air Force, 3) development of the Agni missiles be speeded up on a priority basis, and 4) development of the longer-range Agni II missiles be taken up.

Mr. Singh also dealt at length on the Indo-Pakistan relations, in the context of the latest moves for talks. He spoke of the futility of the arms race between the two countries, as there could be no conclusive war between them. Stressing the need for confidence-building measures, he made a case for solving a less difficult problem, keeping away the difficult ones. He wanted the entire gamut of relations taken up in bilateral talks.

India: Government Gives 'Guarded Response' on Pakistan Missiles

BK1406143896 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 14 Jun 96 p 6

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India today chose to give a guarded response to reports that Pakistan had deployed M-11 missiles, and said it was trying to verify the truth of the report.

The stand was taken with a view that the proposed foreign secretary level talks with Pakistan are not jeopardised.

Though the muted official reaction, the former prime minister and Janata Dal leader Mr V.P. Singh, demanded that India go ahead with the development of Prithvi and other long-range missiles as a possible counter to the M-11.

"We cannot keep our flanks open in view of this grave development across the border," Mr Singh said. Senior Army officials share the same view, and want the government to go ahead with its missile development programme.

However, Mr Singh also warned both countries not to enter an arms race with each other. "Once you get into it, you cannot get out," he said.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman, Mr Arif Khan, said "The government has seen reports in the U.S. press on deployment of M-11 missiles by Pakistan," adding that acquisition of the missiles was a well known fact and a matter of "great concern" to India.

However, Mr Khan said the news was being verified through various sources, including the U.S. "India will take all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interests according to its own threat perceptions," he added.

Diplomats feel the Gowda government's muted response is South Block's attempt not to take a stand which may jeopardise the proposed talks with the Benazir Bhutto government.

Senior External Affairs Ministry officials said India had lodged its protest when reports of Pakistan acquiring the M-11 missiles from China first appeared in the media.

But Islamabad, despite admitting the acquisition of the missiles, has maintained it does not have nuclear capability.

This was to ensure that it does not invite sanctions for violating guidelines of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

The Indian Foreign Office feels that after years of persuasion, Islamabad has finally offered to hold bilateral talks with India and iron out differences on contentious issues. It has also taken cognizance of the fact that Ms Bhutto did not refer to Kashmir at the World Habitat Conference, in Istanbul.

India: Prime Minister Gowda Addresses Nation

BK1606163696 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1431 GMT 16 Jun 96

[Address to the nation by Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sisters and brothers: I am honored to address you today as the prime minister of the great country. After the recent elections for the Lok Sabha, you have waited for more than a month for a stable government capable of fulfilling your hopes and aspirations. I have taken the earliest opportunity to speak to you after our United [Front] government secured the vote of confidence. These elections and the formation of the United Front, in my view, are unique and historic developments in our country. The vastness of our country, its diversity, and our underlying unity are all reflected in this coalition of political parties. The United Front is not just a coalition to share power. We regard this front as the people's power to be used for realizing your hopes and aspirations. It is also the beginning of the new way of governance — a governance based on federalism, decentralization, equality, justice, secular outlook — and the democratic states are the foundation of this constitution. [sentence as heard]

Next year, we will be celebrating the golden jubilee of our independence. It is a tribute to our democracy that a humble son of India, a farmer's son, has been entrusted with the responsibility to lead the nation. I come from the rural India where most of us live. I have seen poverty and deprivation from the close quarters. I know the problems of the common man. I accepted this great responsibility with the conviction that we have to work very hard and earnestly for providing a better quality of life for our people and for the removal of poverty and deprivation.

The other day, the United Front has presented to the country its national agenda. We call it our common approach to major policy matters and the minimum program. We are determined to initiate early action for implementing this common agenda. This will be a significant step in achieving our goals of prosperity, a better quality of life, and removal of poverty and unemployment. My government will give high priority to increasing the inherent strength of the Indian economy, and the process of economic growth will be reinvigorated. Our economy in the last two years has grown by 6 percent a year. This is not enough. We have to aim at 7 to 8 percent of growth rate. If we want to create adequate number of jobs for our growing work force, we will rework our economic policies to achieve this objective.

The prosperity of Indian people depend upon our agriculture. Therefore, we will implement the policy which will boost productivity and production in our farms. Our industry has benefited with the policy of deregulation. The benefits of such deregulation must be extended to agriculture also. We will take measures to bring substantial investment in rural infrastructure. We will also encourage the agroprocessing sector to serve as a critical link between the rural incomes and urban markets. Frequent floods and droughts cause misery to farmers all over the country. A national policy of water sharing and water management will be formulated to save them from such disasters. Various facilities, such as credit and other services available to kisans [farmers], will be thoroughly revamped and made efficient, responsive, and responsible. All these measures will be taken after consultations with the state governments.

Our industries have performed very well, and our policies will be aimed at maintaining at least 12 percent annual industrial growth and stimulate and support domestic entrepreneurship. We will provide a set of policies to help our industrial sector to grow rapidly and compete effectively in the world market. We will encourage greater use of modern technology and upgradation of quality in Indian industry. We must export to survive, and we must be efficient to export. Industry will be given full support to achieve this objective.

Foreign investment has a very important role to play in India's development. Most of our Asian neighbors are attracting large volumes of foreign investment to assist in their modernization and development. Keeping our peculiar circumstances and needs in view, we must also do the same. We will provide foreign investors with a clear and transparent policy. We will make special efforts to attract foreign investment in infrastructure areas and in areas where technology upgradation is specially needed.

Friends, the scope for transforming India in the years ahead is enormous. Fifteen years ago, few people around the world have heard of Bangalore. Today, Bangalore is well known internationally as a center for computer software development and our electronic industry. It has created a large number of high-quality and well-paid jobs. There is no reason why we cannot create similar opportunities in other cities and towns. India's economic potential is enormous and the world is aware that we could become one of the major economies of the world in the next decade. We will together make this happen.

Removal of poverty is the topmost issue on the national agenda. We have committed ourselves to the removal of poverty in 10 years, namely by the year 2005. Programs for generation of employment, creation of assets, imparting of productive skills, and raising the incomes of very poor people would all be strengthened and provided with larger funds. At the same time, there is need to review these programs, sharpen their focus, improve their delivery system, and involve the poor in their implementation. Effective steps will be taken to ensure that the benefits reach the needy people. The quality of life is dependent upon the availability of basic minimum social service to all people regardless of their income. We are moving into the 50th year of independence, but it is appalling that we have not been able to provide the basic minimum service in all our villages. We shall work toward correcting this picture.

We will ensure that: every habitation has access to safe drinking water; every group of 5,000 people have access to an efficiently managed public health center; every shelterless poor person is provided assistance under the public housing program; every village in India is connected with the road to the market or to an approach road leading to a market; every child belonging to poor family is provided with a nutrition through preschool and elementary education; every village has an efficient fair price shop for supplying essential commodities to the poor. And we will also take initiative to promote the spread of literacy and universal as well as compulsory primary education, especially of woman and the girl child. I shall review the priorities of various central programs in these sectors so that these goals are realized.

Some states in India have formulated and implemented successfully such plans.

There are great many things that we can learn from between [as heard] the country. I shall soon be calling a conference of the chief ministers to discuss and finalize time-bound program for fulfilling these basic needs of our people by a government [which] represents the empowerment of the downtrodden, the empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. They want to enhance their dignity and self-confidence to get their due share in the society. I shall strive to ensure that the central and the state governments take comprehensive measure for bringing economic freedom, educational equality, and equal opportunities to the these people.

The United Front government will take all possible measures to promote and ensure equality of women. For this purpose, their representation in the state legislature and in the parliament will be enhanced. All laws would be reviewed to remove provisions which discriminate against women.

My government will spare no efforts to guarantee that minorities live without fear and as equal partners in the country's progress.

Friends, there has traditionally been an agreement in our country on issues relating to national security and the defense of the country. For us, the defense of our territory, integrity, unity, and sovereignty are paramount and nonnegotiable. Our internal and external policies should reflect this consensus. The global strategic and security environment is changing, causing us renewed concern. We live under the shadow of nuclear weapons and missiles. Our security requires careful monitoring and decisive steps. My government's policies in international and security issues will be guided by our supreme interests and by our strength and resilience.

The election to parliament in Jammu and Kashmir is a triumph for our democratic polity. It also shows the maturity of the people in rejecting the militants, including those inspired and abetted from across the borders. Building up on these positive developments, we shall complete the task of restoration of normalcy and popular government in Jammu and Kashmir. I attach the utmost priority to bringing durable peace, stability, and prosperity in the northeastern part of the country. We shall extend all support to the state governments in putting down the insurgency and in securing the trust and confidence of the people of this region.

Friends, providing a corruption-free and clean administration is the need of the hour, and my government is committed to this goal. My government will initiate series of steps to check corruption, reduce the scope of arbitrary decision-making, bringing in the necessary reforms while dealing with deficiencies in our political, judicial, and administrative processes. In doing all these, the United Front government would advance the principles of political, administrative, and economic federalism. There is much to talk on these, but there is much more to do.

Our country is in the midst of a major transition. I am confident that our common approach and the minimum program is designed to promote this transition on the basis of our value and culture enshrined in our Constitution. I seek your fullest cooperation and participation in building this new India of equality, justice, and fraternity.

Jai Hind [Hail India].

India: Court Orders Arrest of Kashmir Police Chief

BK1406141296 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, as the Indian troops intensified their repressive operations against the Kashmiri people, the Srinagar High Court has ordered the arrest of the inspector general of Kashmir police in the murder case of Jalil Andrabi. The order was issued by the court when it was told that the inspector general of police, P.S. Gill, had given up inquiry into the case and the police investigation team had also kept the court in the dark.

KASHMIR MEDIA report says that the New Delhi-based European diplomats from five countries visiting Srinagar have not been allowed to visit the interrogation centers. However, they visited the Central Jail and a hospital.

Indian troops carried out extensive siege and search operations in Srinagar, Badgom, Bhadarwah, and Islamabad and arrested a number of Kashmiri young men. In Lolab area of Kupwara District, six houses were torched during the crackdown. The enraged people staged anti-India demonstrations and the mujahideen retaliated by attacking a military camp in the area, critically injuring a number of troops. A number of troops were killed and injured when the mujahideen attacked a raiding military contingent at Kokarnag in Islamabad District. A common man was killed in Indian troops firing. One mujahid was killed in an exchange of firing with troops in Kupwara District. The troops suffered considerable losses.

In Srinagar, three soldiers were critically injured when the mujahideen attacked a military vehicle. A BSF [Border Security Force] vehicle was blasted at Ramsu near Banihal and an officer, Surendra Singh, and his two guards were critically injured.

Iran

Iran: Russian Ambassador on Nuclear Cooperation With Iran

LD1406170796 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 11 Jun 96 p 1, 13

[Report by Irfan Parviz and Mozhgan Tavassoli: "Irano-Russian Military Cooperation Not Against Any Country]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — A top Russian diplomat yesterday underscored the importance of his country's relations with Iran, saying: "Moscow attaches high priority and significance to its ties with Tehran, and the two countries' military cooperation is directed against none."

"We have achieved great successes in bilateral relations in various important areas of cooperation," Russian Ambassador Sergey Tretyakov said.

In an exclusive interview with 'Iran News', on the eve of his country's National Day, he expressed his opinion on various aspects of Irano-Russian relations.

During the last five years, Iran and Russia have trodden a thorny path, but now they can rightly claim that their relations are based on sound principles and mutual respect.

"In addition to their bilateral relations, Iran and Russia are also helping regional peace and stability," Tretyakov said.

After the disintegration of the former superpower and establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Irano-Russian cooperation has been significant and it has been aimed at resolving the many problems besetting the former republics of the Soviet Union.

"Both Iran and Russia, through mutual cooperation and understanding could solve various problems faced by these republics," Tretyakov said, and recalled, "Tajikistan and Nagorno-Karabakh are some of the best examples where Iran and Russia extended sincere assistance to silence the guns there."

On the occasion of his country's National day, Tretyakov said, "Through Iran News, I want to give a message to the people of my host country for a happy and prosperous life."

"Iran and Russia have ancient historical ties which are developing in diversified ways," Tretyakov, 45, said.

The ambassador brushed aside Western media's propaganda and said: "Iran's Bushehr energy plant is meant for peace, not for making lethal weapons."

"We have talked to the officials of the United States and satisfied them that the Bushehr plant has nothing to do with making a bomb," Tretyakov said.

The Shah's regime gave a contract to Siemens of Germany in the 1970s to build a nuclear energy complex for Iran in the port of Bushehr in the Persian Gulf. Germany, under pressure from the USA, decided to avoid all nuclear cooperation with Iran. Russia started its nuclear energy cooperation with Iran in January last year.

"The project's feasibility study has been completed recently and actual construction is due to start very soon," Tretyakov told 'Iran News'.

The ambassador is "optimistic" and said: "Despite being a difficult task, Russian experts would be able to complete the construction work at the Bushehr plant in 48 months.

"I really don't know why certain media are making a fuss over Iran's plan for nuclear energy," the ambassador said, adding that: "Having signed the NPT [nuclear nonproliferation treaty] and allowing international inspectors to visit the facilities, Iran has the right to obtain nuclear technology, including a reactor for peaceful purposes.

Tretyakov said: "Iran and Russia have military cooperation, but contrary to foreign propaganda, this (military) cooperation is not directed against any country in the region and they do not need to voice concern."

"We have certain commitments to Iran and will fulfil them in all fields for which we had agreed earlier," the ambassador said.

Tretyakov said that with the coordination of Iran we have duly informed the United Nations about military cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

"There is no danger to peace and stability in the region because of the military cooperation between Iran and Russia," Tretyakov emphasized.

"Iran and Russia are cooperating in various new areas, and very recently Iranian Islamic clerics and Russian Orthodox clergies began closer cooperation which is significant," the ambassador said through an interpreter.

Iran and Russia are cooperating with each other on Central Asian issues, the Caucasus, Middle East and Afghanistan.

Tretyakov is well versed in the Persian language (Farsi), but apparently following official policy preferred to speak through an interpreter.

The issue of Iran's debts have been settled during the talks of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Oleg D. Davydov who visited Iran last December.

He said that Iran and Russia are cooperating with each other in the fields of energy, construction, communications and airplane manufacturing industry.

On a recent visit of Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk to Iran, the ambassador said, "It was very successful."

He said "Mr Posuvalyuk met with (Deputy Foreign Minister Ala'ddin) Borujerdi and talked on various issues including the situation in Afghanistan."

"No," he said, "we don't have Russian hostages in Afghanistan."

"There are eight Russian airline crew members who are captured by the Taleban and we are seeking assistance with the friendly countries for their freedom," Tretyakov said, adding that: "There are some people from the former Soviet Union who voluntarily decided to live in Afghanistan forever.

He said Posuvalyuk talked with Iranian officials and it was decided that the meeting of Iran-Russia Joint Economic Commission for the long-term technical and economic development will be held after Russia's 21st June presidential elections.

Tretyakov said that some 40 major projects are under discussion by the Iranian and Russian experts to be finalized during the joint commission's meeting.

Iran: Diplomat Discusses Russo-Iranian Relations

NC1506100296 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 8 Jun 96 pp 1, 12

["Text" of an interview with Mehdi Safari, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Russia by an unidentified ABRAR special correspondent, in Moscow; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The cooperation between Russia and Iran could extend from the Balkans to the Middle East, both of which are important regions. This was stated by Mehdi Safari, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Russia, in an interview with an ABRAR correspondent specially dispatched to Moscow.

He described the impact of our bilateral cooperation on the Persian Gulf as positive, and commented on the defense cooperation between the two countries, saying that each is eager to cooperate in this field.

Referring to the improvement of the economic climate between the two countries, he said that there is scope for exporting $5 to $7 million worth of Iranian products and byproducts to Russia. While emphasizing the need for continued cooperation between Moscow and Tehran in defining the legal status of the Caspian Sea, Safari revealed that in a month or two a meeting of the five Caspian Sea littoral countries will be held in Ashgabat at deputy foreign minister level and subsequently at foreign ministerial level in order to appraise this issue.

The Iranian ambassador to Russia expressed apprehension about the West gaining influence in the Caspian Sea region and said that he hoped that countries which have conflicting views will resolve their differences. The text of the interview is as follows:

[ABRAR] In view of the cooperation between Russia and Iran to establish peace and security in Central Asia and the Caucasus, some analysts consider it possible that this cooperation will extend to the Persian Gulf, especially since this is favored by Russia too. In what areas can there be such cooperation in the Persian Gulf?

[Safari] The first stage of cooperation between Iran and Russia is to have active bilateral relations; these became quite lethargic in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union. However in the past two years these relations have been strengthened as a result of the efforts by both sides. [passage omitted]

Iranian-Russian cooperation can also be effective in south Asia due to our influence in the Persian Gulf. Here I should mention the Sarakhs-Tajan railroad, which has made Iran-Russia ties easier with regard to transit traffic. Our investment activities in the Caspian Sea's major ports and in joint projects in the region, including the launching of a shipping line, will have a political and economic impact on our cooperation with Russia in the Persian Gulf.

Of course, the question that arises in everyone's mind is what kind of cooperation can exist in the Persian Gulf region. This could be economic, as Russian goods can be exported through that region and vice versa.

Now, to summarize: There is scope for Iranian-Russian cooperation from the Balkans to the Far East; and the Middle East is one of the important areas for such cooperation.

[ABRAR] Regarding bilateral cooperation in the defense sector, it appears that in light of NATO expansion, contrary to Moscow's wishes and thus threatening its national interests, Russia wants to forge a defensive cooperation with a number of eastern European countries and Iran. What shape might this kind of cooperation take?

[Safari] If you remember, while traveling around the CIS countries recently Dr. Velayati expressed his opposition to the expansion of NATO, in an interview in Tajikistan. Our two countries are in favor of mutual cooperation in this field, but as for what form it will take, that requires further study.

[ABRAR] Our economic relations show an upward trend. What is the position of the two countries' respective economies? What economic agreements will be signed between Iran and Russia?

[Safari] The economic climate between the two countries has improved immensely in the past two years. We can cooperate with Russia in the fields of aluminum, steel, copper, wood, paper, and railroad equipment. This cooperation could replace the European, Canadian, and Far Eastern interests by 70 to 80 percent. For example, in the area of oil products, we can easily have immense cooperation with Russia.

Recently our oil firm opened an office in Moscow, and many delegations have visited Russia in this regard. We can also export pharmaceutical products to Russia.

Our exports to Russia are numerous. We seek to increase the exporting of our goods via the Caspian Sea so that we can boost bilateral trade. For this purpose we envision the broadening of relations between the contiguous provinces of our two countries. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] Moscow and Tehran have made great efforts to promote peace and tranquillity in Central Asia and the Caucasus, which would serve the national interests of both countries. What is your assessment of this?

[Safari] Much has been done with regard to Tajikistan. During Dr. Velayati's visit to Russia, this issue was discussed with Primakov with favorable results. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] So far the legal status of the Caspian Sea has not been defined. What do you think is the reason?

[Safari] Work has been done on this subject for the past two years. Iran and Russia concur on this and have signed frequent joint communiques on the subject. Unfortunately, the opinions of some of the countries are contradictory to those of Iran and Russia, but steps are being taken to bring these views closer.

Iran and Russia say that the littoral countries of the Caspian Sea should be the ones to make the decisions regarding its resources, not other countries. However, some countries — because of their own views — have opened the door to foreigners to invest in this region.

This investment will, in my opinion, have some unpleasant repercussions in the future. It can almost be said that the West is following its Persian Gulf policy in the Caspian Sea region. They entered the Persian Gulf on the pretext of prospecting for and extracting oil. Later their national interests surfaced and we see now their continued presence in the region.

I think that in a month or two another meeting on the Caspian Sea will be held, first at the level of deputy foreign ministers and later at the level of foreign ministers of the littoral states.

[ABRAR] In what city?

[Safari] In Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan.

[ABRAR] Mr. Safari, we thank you for giving us your time for this interview.

Iran: President Rafsanjani Criticizes U.S. Actions

LD1506133496 Tehran IRNA in English
1242 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jun 15 (IRNA) — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here on Saturday [15 Jun] that the Islamic revolution of Iran has taught the global arrogance and hegemonist powers that the divine motives are too strong to be driven out of the scene by force.

"It is a mistake for the United States to speak to the devoted people of Iran with such a language," the president said in a meeting with members of the Islamic Coalition Society.

President Rafsanjani said the lengthy struggles of the Iranian people with the former regime and with the global arrogance and the big powers on a wider scale has given a good historical lesson to world nations by indicating that the more pressure is exerted on this divine movement, the more strongly the people will defend the achievements of the Islamic revolution.

President Rafsanjani said resorting to the weapons of threat and intimidation might work to make only those fond of worldly pleasure to surrender or get them out of the scene, but, it will not work to break the will of the faithul people who have chosen their way with bright insight and strong faith.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has proved to the history during its ups and downs, that commitment to religion will invigorate freedom movements and will make freedom struggles invulnerable.

Iran: Radio Discusses U.S. Sanctions Against Iran, Libya

LD1506210496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2003 GMT 15 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings dear listeners. We begin tonight's political commentary with an analysis of the new efforts by the United States to impose sanctions on companies that cooperate with Iran and Libya, and the opposition shown to these efforts by the world's economic power centers.

In the last few days, discussion has been renewed in one of the committees of the U.S. House of Representatives about sanctions against foreign companies investing in Iran and Libya. Debate about this issue and the extensive opposition to it shown by international power centers have been topical issues in the media and in political circles.

The initiator of this proposal is the American Zionist Senator Alfonse D'Amato, who was recently accused of financial abuse and embezzlement. He has made the bill virtually ineffective with changes to the initial proposal. At the beginning, it embraced all foreign companies doing business with Iran. However, the White House and the proposers of the bill — under the influence of the realities stemming from Iran's importance and economic strength, as well as extensive international opposition and even domestic opposition within the United States, and threats by various countries to retaliate in kind — limited it to oil companies.

Of course, it is obvious that limiting it to oil companies will not have any effect on the international opposition and the domestic opposition from U.S. companies, because the main reason for this opposition is not the range or degree of sanctions. The fact of the matter is that the mere imposition of unilateral sanctions is seen by all the countries of the world, except Israel, as a violation of international regulations and it is considered, by these countries, to be a dangerous aberration in the international community.

Such measures can lead to wide scale consequences in the future in terms of threatening these countries' interests. For this reason, in the opinion of political and international analysts, the opposition and threats of the European Union and Asian, American, and Russian power centers arise from their farsightedness. These economic power centers are, therefore, determined to give an appropriate response to the imposition of unilateral sanctions which fulfill only the interests of some factions of power in the United States and of the Zionists.

Iran: Daily Emphasizes 'Crucial' U.S. Role in Balkans Peace

LD1706083696 Tehran IRNA in English 0731 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA — An English-language daily Monday [17 Jun] commented on establishment of a new government for the rebel state of Herzeg-Bosnia by the separatist Croat Bosnians, saying the rebel state will not remain part of the Sarajevo-based Muslim-Croat federation.

"The Croat officials should remember that any attempt for the reintegration of Croat areas within the federation is tantamount to a new war," 'TEHRAN TIMES' added.

The Croats have not learned a lesson from the bloodshed in the Balkans, it said, adding that they themselves will be the victims of another war in the former Yugoslavia.

The editorial further underlined that the role of the U.S. is very crucial in maintaining peace in the Balkans because Washington is the only sponsor of the Dayton agreement.

Ironically, on the pretext of security problems, the U.S. has forced the Bosnian Government to implement the articles of the Dayton agreement, it said, adding when few Muslim fighters had remained in Bosnia, the Clinton administration made a hue and cry, conditioning even financial aid on the departure of Muslim fighters from that country.

"Now the U.S. should use any possible leverage to force the rebel Croats to commit themselves to the terms of the Dayton agreement," it noted.

It concluded that since the U.N. can play its part in preventing another bloodshed in the Balkans, it should take steps as soon as possible.

Iran: French Company Ignores U.S. Sanction Pressure

LD1506155296 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Jun 15 (IRNA) — A spokesman for the French oil company Total announced here on Saturday [15 Jun] that the company will continue its oil activities in Iran in spite of the U.S. pressure.

Referring to an agreement signed last June by Total and Iran, the spokesman explained that since the agreement is in compliance with French and European laws and with international trade regulations, the French company is determined to carry out its deal.

The United States has recently decided to pass a sanction bill in the congress seeking punishment of foreign companies willing to invest in Iran.

Touching on the U.S. effort to impose secondary sanctions on Iran, the spokesman underlined that Total as a French company is not to abide by American laws.

The spokesman also mentioned that Total is not concerned about the forthcoming U.S. bill and will continue its projects in Iran.

Iran: KAYHAN Views Crisis of Legitimacy in Bahrain

LD1406144096 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 10 Jun 96 p8

[Unattributed political commentary entitled: "Legitimacy Crisis in Bahrain"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The crisis has deepened in Bahrain with the majority of the 500,000 population standing up for their basic rights and the ruling al-Khalifa family responding with a heavy hand.

Diplomatic sources say the situation, if the trend of popular opposition to the government continues, will soon get out of hand. The ruling Al-Khalifah family, failing to face up to its internal problems, has preferred the most outdated solution to the problem: Blaming foreign countries for the locally-rooted problem.

Only two weeks ago, Sultan Qabus of Oman rejected any Iranian connection with the uprising and said the problem was an internal one that had to be solved from within.

Since its separation from Iran in 1971, Bahrain has rarely witnessed a day without political upheavals. The upheavals have developed, since one and a half years ago, into a fully-blown uprising against the hand-picked al-Khalifah family.

The uprising in the archipelago developed in December 1994 after the government arrested a few personalities opposed to the government's policies. Their crime? Demanding the release of political prisoners and the restoration of parliament suspended by Shaykh Isa Bin-Salam Al-Khalifah since 1975.

The government has tried to portray the uprising as unrest orchestrated by a few Shi'i Muslims, but the true story is different. Contrary to the claims by the al-Khalifah ruling family, about 80 percent of Bahrain's 500,000 population are Shi'i Muslims and the uprising is not only supported by Shi'i but also by all sects, Sunny Muslims, liberals and Christians alike, and people from all walks of life.

While Shi'i Muslims are barred from key posts and unemployment is running high, the country's security forces are commanded by British agents and tens of thousands of foreigners are working on the island.

As a matter of fact, the majority of the Bahraini population are fed up with the brutalities of the ruling family which has responded to their legal demands for basic rights with bullets. Of course nobody expects the Americans and the British to criticize the dictatorship. Why? Because if the wishes of the people are met, the United States will not be allowed a military base in Bahrain, Britain will not be able to sell its arms there and its agents will be expelled from the island.

Political observers in Tehran believe that Bahrain's allegation that Iran was involved in an alleged plot to topple the government would not have been raised without consultation with London and Washington.

The changes are quite irrelevant because an uprising can only occur where discontent already exists.

Frankly, the problem of the Al-Khalifah family is one of "legitimacy" and it can not be solved by jailing people or blaming foreign countries for the problem. The majority of the Bahraini people simply do not like the family ruling them and Shaykh Isa cannot imprison the majority of his people. On the contrary, the hand-picked family will be imprisoned itself or asked to return to its home in eastern Saudi Arabia, if it refuses to properly address the current situation.

Iran: Commentator Suggests Ways for Bahrain To Overcome Problems

NC1606183196 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian 9 Jun 96 pp 1, 11

[Political commentary: "Bahrain's Attempts To Deflect Internal Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Accusations in the Bahraini media against Iran and government authorities' blaming domestic discontent on Iran have marred bilateral relations, taking them to their lowest level in recent years.

Bahraini television presented the confessions of some of the 44 political prisoners arrested on charges of plotting to overthrow the government. These political prisoners — mainly Shiites — read out confessions in which it was alleged that the network of opponents of the Bahraini Government is in contact with Iranian embassies from the Persian Gulf countries to Britain. Bahraini television also carried footage of some light weaponry, which, according to the government, was to be used to topple it.

The leader of the opponents of the Bahraini Government announced that the confessions were false, made under duress and torture.

Following the televised farce, Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad al-Khalifah told a news conference for foreign media: The groups opposed to the Bahraini Government intended to topple the government and install an Islamic regime similar to that in Iran.

This is obviously an effort to deflect attention from domestic political problems. The Bahraini Government's opponents come mainly from the country's Shiite population. They have adopted the Islamic ideology as their manifesto in their campaign against repressive government policies to attain their political demands.

But there is no reason for the Iranian Government to pledge to support the Bahraini Government opponents or interfere in Bahrain's internal affairs. This is because respect for territorial integrity and noninterference in a country's domestic affairs are among the immutable principles of Iran's foreign policy, principles reiterated by Iranian Government officials and reaffirmed repeatedly for the benefit of neighboring countries.

But the Bahraini Government continues to harp on about the issue of a chimerical enemy — knowing the foregoing facts — to divert attention from its internal problems. Bahrain accuses the Iranian Government of supporting its antiregime elements, solely due to the Islamic bias of their movement.

Undoubtedly, foreign benefits will accrue to Bahrain through such accusations but these will find no domestic consumption, since the public knows of the spontaneous dissident movement, one that requires no extraneous reasons or evidence.

The unlimited monopolistic nature of the Bahraini Government's power, the suppression of the most basic social freedoms, the implementation of a discriminatory political and social policy against the Shiites, and the people's deprivation of any kind of political participation in the power structure are among the main causes. If they are not removed they will continue to fan the flames of internal dissent and political crises.

In recent months the Bahraini Government has tried hard politically to make the opposition movement compromise. But today facts and figures indicate that these efforts have failed. Accordingly, to overshadow the movement opposing it, the Bahraini Government has resorted to ascribing it to foreign sources.

Bahrain's echelons should realize that by leveling such accusations and adopting such stances they are not helping to solve their internal problems. Instead they should hold a wholesome dialogue with their opponents; only by agreeing to the people's political participation in the power structure will they end their domestic problems effectively.

Iran: Editorial Warns Bahrain May Become 'Another Algeria'

LD1406165796 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 11 Jun 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Bahrain: Acceptance of Mediation Is Better Than Creation of a New Algeria"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] No one is respsonsible for the recent breakdown of law and order in Bahrain, but the government in Manama. So far the Bahraini Government's response to the internal crisis has been the allegation that it is "foreign inspired." Such an allegation is far from the truth and is not helpful in resolving Bahrain's domestic crisis.

Countries which want to cultivate peace and stability in the region are voicing their concern over the worsening situation in the 35-island nation in the Persian Gulf.

This is the reason why Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in response to Manama's baseless allegations against the Islamic Republic, offered Iran's good offices to Bahrain to help mediate an end to the internal uprising in that neighbouring country.

Those who view the Bahraini crisis with colourless glasses know very well that the root cause of the strife is not as simple as the government in Manama tries to portray before the world public opinion.

The 60 percent Shiite majority, along with the open-minded and politically conscious Sunni community, are reluctant to accept the basic fabric of the ruling system. Public sentiment rejecting the ruling system is aggravated because of financial corruption and the deteriorating moral condition prevailing in Bahrain.

So far, we have seen that the anti-regime demonstrations were organized by the common people, and in some cases they used simple and home-made weapons for which, as we have already mentioned in this column, no foreign assistance is needed.

And we also should not forget that the people of Bahrain are facing a regime which has a habit of brutally crushing any movement, no matter how popular and genuine the movement is.

In the meantime, it is Iran's declared policy to work for peace and stability in the region, particularly after two devastating wars here which brought unimaginable hardships for the people in this part of the world.

What is the best and most acceptable solution to the problem?

The simple fact is that all of Bahrain's neighbours also have the same ruling system which is under fire in Manama. Because of this simple reason, the people of Bahrain are not willing to pin their hopes on any other traditional conservative monarchical regimes in their neighbouring countries for a just mediation.

The rulers in Manama should open their eyes and accept Iran's mediation offer before they pave the way for the creation of another Algeria — this time in the Persian Gulf.

Iran: Paper Assails Turkish Policy Toward Syria, Deal With Israel

LD1606113896 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA — A morning daily Sunday [16 June] editorialized on Ankara's policies towards Syria saying earlier reports indicated that the Turks have been involved in undermining Syria's security through a series of bombings.

"Although Turkey is a Muslim country, it has turned into an ally of the Muslims' arch enemy, the Zionist regime, since it signed a military cooperation agreement with Tel Aviv in February this year," 'TEHRAN TIMES' added.

Contrary to the will of its Muslim people, Ankara is determined to move towards a stronger alliance with the U.S. even at the expense of its ties with Europe, it underlined adding, this is why in its new mission of functioning as an agent of the Tel Aviv-Washington, Turkey does not recognize any limit.

"Ankara must realize that the Zionist regime will not spare any Muslim country. If today the Zionists are targeting Syria and Lebanon, tomorrow it will be Ankara's turn but in an appropriate opportunity."

Weakening Syria's political position will only serve the enemies of the Muslims. Playing into the tune of the Zionist regime may give Ankara short-term advantages but in the long-run Turkey itself will be the victim of its own policies, it added.

The editorial concluded that unfortunately, the main victims of Ankara's policies are the common people and in the case of a crisis too the people will be the main sufferers.

Iran: Paper Calls Netanyahu Program 'Declaration of War'

LD1406142796 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Jun 96 p 2

[Article: "Likud's Draft Program — A Declaration of War"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Israeli Prime Minister-elect, Benjamin Netanyahu, has released the draft program of his right-wing Likud government. The draft program, published by the Israeli press on Friday, [14 Jun] repeats what the party had said in its election platform.

Many observers previously believed that the party might soften its stand on the so-called peace process once it won enough seats in the parliament to form the government.

Apparently, the Likud party is out to hold fast to its election manifesto, which is tantamount to derailing the peace talks.

The draft program rules out the creation of a Palestinian state; it foresees expansion of Jewish settlements; it rejects the return of the Golan Heights to Syria; it also opposes the division of Jerusalem.

A Likud MP, Michael Eytan, who is involved in drawing up the policy guidelines, has said that an eventual peace agreement should acknowledge "Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights."

Just a glance at the draft program would be enough to find out what the PLO would gain out of its deal with Israel: The Likud government will not recognize an independent Palestinian state. This means that the Palestinian Authority will not be able to wield any substantive power in the two enclaves of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Even within these two enclaves, the Israeli government will have the final word, as we have already observed when it closed the West Bank prior to the elections on the pretext of security reasons.

Jerusalem will remain under the control of the Zionist regime. East Jerusalem will not be given to the Palestinians to be used as their capital.

In sum, the Palestinian Authority will be converted into an Israeli agent, entrusted with the task of suppressing any anti-Israeli movement within the two enclaves.

The draft program also indicates that the Likud government will follow an expansionist policy as it calls for the Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights. Everybody knows that the Golan Heights were occupied in 1967, and that the UN has already issued a resolution demanding Israel to withdraw its troops from the heights.

Israelis know well enough that Syria will not compromise on the Golan Heights. They are also well aware that the Palestinians have historical and religious attachments to Jerusalem. Hence, the Likud government's draft program may be interpreted as a declaration of war rather than a peace plan.

The Likud has sent the ball into the PLO's court. The Arab-Islamic pride of the Palestinians is at stake. The continuation of the so-called peace process will culminate in the total neglect of the Palestinian rights through capitulation to expansionist policies of the Zionist regime. The PLO should decide today. Tomorrow will be too late.

Iran: KAYHAN Comments on Cairo Summit, Misplaced Threat to Peace

LD1406143696 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 10 Jun 96 p2

[Article by Amin Sabooni entitled: "The Cairo Summit"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Six years and a destructive war later, Arab leaders have alas decided to meet in Cairo "to close Arab ranks, support the peace process..." The June 21-23 summit was declared in Damascus on Saturday [15 Jun] following crucial talks between Syrian leader Hafiz al-Asad, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abdal-'Aziz.

At least for the time being, Arab leaders think the so-called Mideast peace process is in mortal danger. The perceived threats are no where more evident than in the rapid reaction and frantic efforts displayed by Arab leaders following the right-wing victory of Benyamin Netanyahu in the recent Zionist elections.

In fact, in the context of real peace with justice for the Palestinian Muslims, the concern in Arab capitals is as misplaced as the "threat" to the entire peace process is misleading. The reality on the ground is that never did genuine peace exist for it to be now endangered, despite all the unprecedented propaganda in the U.S., whose President on several occasions talked as if he was the prime minister of Israel.

Fanaticism is as much part and parcel of the Zionist agenda as is the futility of Arab calls to form a united front in the interest of their peoples, especially the down-trodden and the victims of Israel's military barbarism. Arab leaders have remained so far and apart from each other that a full summit was impossible since after the August 1990 Iraq-Kuwait conflict, which further divided the Arab world.

Irrespective of the known sources of tension and fragmentation in the Arab leadership, it is comforting to note that heads of state have agreed to at least meet. The gathering would be helpful, to say the least, if the summiteers ensure that there is no obfuscation over core issues and that profits do not come before principle.

Many respected people in the Arab world cannot be blamed if they insist that this is not the time to close ranks, but to create and promote a concrete package of alternatives to the U.S.-engineered Mideast strategy, which has almost always favoured the Zionist occupiers both during war and no-war situations. A new and effective formula of peace has become all the more essential.

Given the circumstances and the dwindling credibility of some Arab rulers, injustice will have been done if Prince 'Abdallah is not commended for believing that Arabs would "strive for peace, not surrender." Seldom has an influential Arab statesman spoken so candidly and/or upheld the ABC of dealing with dignity.

The Cairo summit could, or for the matter should, be the appropriate forum for honest reflections and not behind-the-scene concessions that have so far prolonged the suffering of the Palestinian masses and cultivated the crisis of confidence in the Arab world.

Iran: Afghan Party Leader Praises Iran's Peace Efforts

LD1606084696 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA — Leader of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan General Abdur Rashid Dostum Saturday [15 Jun] praised Iran's efforts aimed at settling the Afghan crisis.

He made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi in Mazar Sharif.

Welcoming any move to end clashes in Afghanistan, he said that negotiation is the best means of stopping fighting among rival Afghan groups.

Stressing that Iran will undoubtedly continue its efforts to help settle the Afghan problem, Borujerdi expressed hope that war will end in Afghanistan and tranquility prevail in the country in the near future.

Iran: Afghan Paper Comments on Signing of Economic Agreement

LD1606195796 Tehran IRNA in English
1844 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul Jun 16, IRNA — 'PAYAM-E JAHAD', Afghan weekly wrote that the signing of the economic agreement between Iran and Afghanistan has helped Afghanistan attain a significant international credit status, and boost up Afghani President Borhanoddin Rabbani's government credit standing.

Editorializing on the agreement, the organ of the Afghanistan Islamic Movement added that cultural, political and economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran is of special significance.

The first Irano-Afghan joint economic commission opened in Tehran last week and the second one is to be held in Kabul in July-August 1997.

PAYAM-E JAHAD which quoted Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyed Abd al-Azim Mobin, the official representative of the Islamic Movement Party in Tehran, wrote that the Islamic Republic of Iran has played a glaring role in settling the Afghan crisis.

The weekly finally added that Iranian officials have made great efforts to establish peace and security in Afghanistan.

Iran: Tehran's Protest to UK Envoy Statement

LD1606184596 Tehran IRNA in English
1815 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA — British charge d'affaires to Tehran, Jeffrey R. James, was recalled by the Iranian Foreign Ministry here Sunday [16 Jun] to hear Iran's protest to statements last week by the British ambassador to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The charge d'affaires of Britain was told that the Islamic republic had never interferred in the internal relations of any country and had consistently advocated peace and security at the Persian Gulf as the most important element guaranteeing best protection of Iran's own interests.

He was also told that such unfounded observations as had been offered by the British ambassador in Riyadh would simply foment tension in the region rather than serve to resolve its problems.

The British envoy said he would bring that to the knowledge of his own government as soon as possible.

Earlier on, British Ambassador to Riyadh Andrew Green had said in an interview that Europe and the regional governments had to oppose Iran's interference in the internal affairs of the countries of the region.

Iran: Velayati Voices Concern About Tajikistan in Letter to UN

LD1506072796 Tehran IRNA in English
0659 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, June 15, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a letter to the U.N. Secretary General, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's deep concern over the recent developments in Tajikistan.

In the letter, submitted on Friday [14 Jun] evening by Iran's Ambassador to U.N., Kamal Kharrazi, Velayati announced Iran's full readiness to help holding a new round of negotiations aimed at bringing peace and stability back to Tajikistan.

Referring to several rounds of inter-Tajik peace talks, Velayati said that the agreements thus reached, as a result of the support and efforts of the United Nations and observer countries, presented an array of hope to the afflicted people of Tajikistan during the last few months for establishment of a just and durable peace and prevalence of stability, however, the recent events at borders and within Tajikistan have renewed reason for concern on the part of the supporter and promoters of peace and tranquility in that country.

The letter has been sent at a time when the U.N. Security Council, on Friday, extended the mission of its observers in Tajikistan for another six months.

Implementation of the Tehran peace accord, commitment of Tajik Government and opposition to establishment of a durable peace in Tajikistan, their efforts towards reaching a national consensus, as well as, promotion of democracy in the Central Asian state are among the conditions required for continuation of the U.N. peace mission. [sentence as received]

Iranian Foreign Minister noted that the Tehran cease-fire agreement of 17 September 1994, which resulted from negotiations between the two sides and efforts of the United Nations and other intermediaries, presenting an appropriate and necessary basis for the peaceful settlement of the crisis through constructive talks between the two sides, has been reportedly violated by both sides on several occasions. In the meantime, no effective measures has been taken to promote and carry out those understandings that have not to date been breached, and as a result the joint commission for monitoring the cease-fire has been rendered inactive.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has the strong conviction that during the transitional period the region is in dire need of calm and stability, and that the continuation of the current crisis in Tajikistan would adversely affect the entire Central Asia. Hence, the Islamic Republic of Iran views the recent events in Tajikistan with deep concern. It is in this context that in keeping with its policy to help settle the regional crisis, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the intermediary countries working with the United Nations to restore peace and stability in Tajikistan, underscores that commitment to continuation of inter-Tajik talks and full adherence to agreement and understandings thus reached by both sides is the only viable solution for the crisis. Therefore, I feel compelled to draw your excellency's attention to the urgent need to hold the inter-Tajik talks in the shortest possible time and to the imperative of adopting measures to build confidence, the letter added.

The letter concluded that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as in the past, expresses its readiness to help and cooperate with the United Nations and your special representative in Tajikistan for the fulfilment of the serious and constructive task of settling the dispute and convening of a new round of inter-Tajik talks.

Permanent representative of Iran in the United Nations requested the Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to circulate the letter and its annex as an official document of the Security Council.

Iran: Daily Warns UN, Turkey Over Iraq Relations

*LD1706065196 Tehran IRNA in English
0613 GMT 17 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA — Top priority should be given to iron out all misunderstandings and disputes between the U.N. and the Iraqi regime, the English-language 'IRAN NEWS' said Monday, [17 Jun] stressing that normal Iraqi-U.N. relations are a necessity and a pre-requisite for peace and stability in the region.

"The dragging and tiring U.N. inspection business in search of illegal weapons in Iraq allows external forces to interfere in (that country's) internal affairs and its sovereignty also remains under serious threat," it wrote, referring to the incursions of Turkish troops in Iraqi territory, the most recent of which resulted in the killing of 200 members of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK).

Expressing serious concern over Ankara's moves, the editorial added that Turkish forces should vacate Iraqi territory at the earliest. Violation of Iraqi sovereignty can be expected to continue as long as the "cat and mouse" game between Baghdad and the Security Council persisted.

Reminding Ankara that hot pursuit of rebels did not succeed in the past and there are no guarantees that Turkish foces would achieve their objective this time, it concluded by reminding that "collective efforts and not unilateral moves are the only means of solving problems such as the ones Turkey is facing regarding rebellion in its territory."

Iran: Rafsanjani Stresses Eternal Nature of Revolution

*LD1506115096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 15 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President [Akbar] Hashemi-Rafsanjani today stressed the eternal nature of mass revolutionary movements which are based on faith and spiritual aspirations.

He said: During its eventful history, the Islamic revolution has proved that the principle of religiosity, together with the notion of placing religious faith at the heart of everything, serves to enhance and consolidate liberation movements and bring invincibility to the course of struggle.

According to a Central News Unit report, the president, who was addressing members of the Islamic Coalition Societies [Persian: Jam'iyyat-e Mo'talefeh-ye Eslami], added: The long course of the Iranian nation's struggle against the tyranny of the monarchical regime is continuing today on a larger scale. The struggle today is against the global arrogance and the major powers of the world. This struggle provides a good example for the other nations of the world in that it proves that, as the pressures increase and the enmity against this divine dynamic movement grows, the people become more resilient in their defence of the achievements of their revolution.

Rafsanjani said any threats and any attempts at scaremongering are totally ineffective in the face of religious and spiritual movements. He said: Resorting to weapons and other forms of threat and coercion may succeed in frightening those who are infatuated with this material world. However, these ploys will have no effect whatsoever on pious and faithful individuals who have chosen their path with a clear vision and strong faith.

Rafsanjani added: The Islamic revolution has taught the arrogant and hegemonistic powers that religious and ideological movements should be approached in a logical manner. This is because that which is motivated by divine inspiration cannot be driven out of the arena by means of coercion. Today, the United States has clearly made a mistake in choosing such language when addressing the combatant nation of Iran. [passage omitted]

Rafsanjani then commemorated the esteemed late Imam [Khomeyni], peace be upon him, and his unique character. [passage omitted]

The president said: At present, we do not feel that the Imam's seat is left vacant. This is because a wise and pious personality, that is to say the eminent leader [Khamene'i], who was very close to our dear Imam, has assumed the mantle of leadership. [passage omitted]

Iran: Deputy Outlines Important Missions of New Majles

LD1406155596 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian
11 Jun 96 p 3

[Article: "Akrami — Knowing the Cabinet Members is one of the Most Important Missions of the Fifth Majles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Reza Akrami, a Majles Presidium member, has enumerated the most important missions of the Fifth Majles, including the pursuance of the methods for implementing the Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan, the drawing up and approving of the Third Five-Year Development Plan, reforming the administrative structure, resolving the problems concerning nonoil exports, and knowing the members of the future cabinet.

The deputy for Tehran, Akrami, in an interview with the AKHBAR parliamentary correspondent about the reform of the administrative structure, said: In order to make organs with parallel tasks accountable and to have precise control over them, such government establishments and organizations must become integrated during the Fifth Majles term.

He added: After the victory of the revolution, a series of fundamental bodies — such as the Construction Jihad, [various departments of] the Martyrs foundation, [Imam Khomeyni's] Relief Committee, and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps — were created which were aimed at strengthening those bodies and centralizing and combining them with government departments which had responsibilities in common with them. Unfortunately, such bodies with parallel tasks still exist. That is not economical on economic and accountability grounds. He pointed out: To give an example — at the moment the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry, the Islamic Publicity Organization, the Office of Islamic Publicity and the Voice and Vision Organization carry out training in some cases. These must be centered in one place to prevent overlapping.

He added: The Fifth Majles must propose and adopt a plan for surplus personnel in some organizations, bodies, and ministries to be transferred to expanding companies and organizations, such as the National Gas Company, the Water and Sewage Organization, and the Law Enforcement Forces, which are facing personnel shortages.

Asked whether women, who constitute half the number of civil servants, can be transferred to the Law Enforcement Forces, he replied: There is nothing against the employment of women in administrative work, typing and the like, in the Law Enforcement Forces.

For the purpose of reducing government employees, he suggested a plan be proposed for those civil servants with 25 years of service to be retired with pension.

He said: At the moment more than 4.3 million people work for the government as substantive, contract, wage-earning employees and pro rata teachers. Bearing in mind the 60 million population, about 2 million of those are surplus employees.

He added: The United States of America, with a population of 300 million has 2.3 million government employees and yet Congress and the White House are in dispute over 800,000.

Regarding the drawing up of the Third Five-Year Development Plan, he mentioned three axes: Serious attention to be paid to the guidelines and objectives of the first and second plans, such as social justice and development; considering and completing the economic, social, and cultural projects from the second development plan; and paying attention to new requirements, statistics, data, and research. Hojjat ol-Eslam Akrami added: Bearing in mind the increasing vindictiveness of the enemies towards our country, we must give importance to the defense sector in parallel with the infrastructural programs.

Iran: MP Says Too Early for Political Formations in Majles

LD1406164796 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English
11 Jun 96 p 1, 3

[Unattributed report: "Too Early for Political Formations in Majles]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — Political formation is something new in the 5th term of the Majles and no serious measures have been taken to this end yet, said an MP from Mashhad here yesterday [10 June]

Marziyeh Seddiqi, during an exclusive interview with 'Iran News' said: As demonstrated during the election of the presiding board, many representatives have not yet specified their affiliation to a faction or full solidarity with a certain political group.

She said it was too early to express any opinion on the political formation of the deputies in the parliament.

'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri received a majority of 132 out of the total 241 votes during the 2nd June election for the temporary Speaker and Abdullah Nuri received only 105 votes, she maintained.

Backed by Jame'eh-ye Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez (JRM), Nateq-Nuri was elected on 5th June 1996 by 146 out of 240 votes, as the permanent Speaker for a period of one year, whereas his rival-backed by a coalition of the followers of the Imam's line and the G-6 (Executives of Construction) — received 92, she cited.

Terming political formation as a positive step in the right direction, she emphasized that it can be created in an amiable climate filled with a spirit of cooperation.

The Mashhad deputy said in her opinion, changing the name of JRM to Hezbollah was aimed at creating solidarity and unity.

Iran: Minister Promises Growth in Industrial Exports

LD1406155296 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian 12 Jun 96 p 5

[Article by AKBAR correspondent: "Minister Ne'matzadeh: 1375, the Year Industrial Exports Expand by 80 Percent"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Esfahan — The industries minister has announced that 60 major projects will be implemented throughout the country.

The minister, Engineer Ne'matzadeh, at the opening ceremony of a conference organized for the country's industrial managers on 11 June, said: In the year 1375 [20 March 1996-20 March 1997], industrial exports will increase by 80 percent and the two ministries of industries and heavy industries will be merged.

He added: We must mobilize the industrial sector so as to realize the desired objective; and the money for investment should come from sources outside our banking system. He went on: One way of attracting capital would be through the sale of investment securities; and we must amend the law to enable Iranians living abroad to transfer up to $500 million of their money to the country.

He pointed out that the Industries Ministry has been the most successful department in attracting foreign capital, and added: Investment by foreign firms is increasing. [passage omitted]

Mr. Ne'matzadeh stressed: The U.S. pressure and economic sanctions have not affected the country's industrial sector, and thanks to our existing capabilities, we have succeeded in neutralizing the pressure exerted by the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

Iran: Majles Deputy on Trend Toward Reducing Oil Dependency

LD1406161896 Tehran IRAN in Persian 11 Jun 96 p 3

[Headline: "The Trend of Reducing Dependency on Oil Income is Satisfactory"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Engineer Reza Abdullahi, Majles deputy, tells IRAN reporters: The trend of reducing dependency on oil income is satisfactory. Will the Islamic Republic of Iran be able to reduce its dependence on oil income? Is freedom from a single commodity economy essential? Finally, how can one attain a new and more rational economic system that is less dependent on oil? These are some of the questions that we have been asking a number of experts recently.

Today, the newspaper's "mirror" group has conducted an interview with Engineer Reza Abdullahi, the representative of the people of Mahneshan in the fifth Majles, and also a member of the Budget and Planning Committee in the fourth Majles. [passage omitted]

[Abdullahi] In my opinion, a number of fundamental rules have to be observed if the country's economic system is to be managed without reliance on oil income:

1. There is a need for greater domestic solidarity and also a stronger commitment to the country's construction and development.
2. The country's bureaucratic and administration system has to undergo reforms.
3. A number of policies need to be formulated and implemented in order to increase production and boost foreign currency earnings. These policies must, at the same time, aim to safeguard Islamic values.
4. There is also a need for more investment in the country's existing potentials. Furthermore, policies that only waste the country's resources must stop altogether.
5. The way we employ the country's work force must be improved.
6. The number of monopolies have to be reduced so as to pave the way for more competition in the production sector.
7. Serious decisions must be made in order to reduce the rate of population growth.

Iran: Construction Industry Looks to Foreign Markets

LD1406165396 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Jun 96 p 1, 14

[Unattributed report: "Construction Activities Abroad To Be Encouraged"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — The Islamic Republic of Iran has the capability to export technical and engineering services on urban development projects and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development has steadily worked to materialize this capability, the Housing Minister 'Abbas Ahmad-Akhundi told the 'Tehran Times'.

Since our engineers are overactive in the domestic markets and in urban projects they have not looked for winning foreign tenders and getting their share from international markets, the minister added.

Iran's urban development engineering history dates back to at least six decades ago when Turkey, Iraq and Egypt simultaneously opened academies in this field, Akhundi said, adding that up to the present despite our high potential engineers have focused their attention on domestic projects. [sentence as published]

Recently the ministry took the first steps for the participation of Iranian engineers in international markets, the minister said adding that to accomplish the goal, some laws and regulations have been ratified to accelerate the technical activities of Iranian engineers abroad.

Informing all domestic companies and calling for their unity under the government support were among urgent policies pursued by the ministry, Akhundi stressed.

During the last two years the ministry has studied all the possible overseas markets Iran can participate in, among them Syria, French, Lebanon, Kuwait, Germany, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, South Africa and some other countries, the minister said.

Meanwhile Akhundi added the government financially supports all Iranian companies who win a construction tender abroad.

He also stressed that solidarity among Iranian companies and their massive participation in foreign projects will guarantee a bright future for those companies.

Akhundi went on to say that preparing more facilities for the overseas companies' activities was discussed and agreed upon in joint sessions with the Foreign Ministry. Also erecting the Iran-owned buildings abroad will be accomplished by the accredited Iranian construction companies so as to exhibit Iranian architecture technology.

The minister also noted that Iran and some European countries including France and Germany have discussed a plan under which they can undertake Central Asian construction projects unanimously.

The minister maintained that for two reasons Iran can be a profitable partner for European firms willing to participate in any construction projects in Central Asian states: construction technology affinity between Iran and Europe and Iran's geographical proximity to Central Asia. [sentence as published] The latter makes it unnecessary for Europeans to indulge in costly transportation of machinery and labor to those countries, he concluded.

Iran: TEHRAN TIMES Views Handicrafts Sector's Economic Role

LD1406140896 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Jun 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Standing Tall Amidst a Financial Crisis"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite the fact that handicrafts play a crucial role in the Iranian economy, the sector is not being given the attention that it deserves.

About 10 million people are in the handicrafts industry in the country. With Iranian craftsmen producing over 150 different kinds, handicrafts produced in Iran number one of the highest in the world.

The carpet industry is perhaps the most important among Iranian handicrafts. Last year exports of hand-woven carpets earned for the country more than one billion dollars.

Almost one-sixth of the Iranian population is engaged in carpet weaving. This figure is very crucial in any national economic planning.

Perhaps because the country has traditionally depended on oil for revenue, our officials failed to see the economic prospect of the non-oil industry until recently. The Second Five-Year Development Plan attests to this. They failed to realize soon enough that overdependence on one source of income can be turned by the enemy into an instrument for economic sabotage. To compound the problem, neglect of the handicrafts sector has left many regions, where craftsmen abound, pitifully backward.

As we work towards becoming a self-reliant economy, the two sectors should be given due attention in any macroeconomic planning. Cooperative societies which provide needed incentive to both sectors should be encouraged and strengthened. Strong cooperatives can mean more job opportunities and revenue for the two sectors.

Kudos to the newly inaugurated Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railway. It will definitely expand markets for the country's handicrafts. The next logical step would be to relax export formalities, so as to encourage our enterprising businessmen. In the export-import business markets alone, no guarantee of a profitable return of investment will kill incentive.

Let us not leave a stone unturned to make our handicrafts industry stand tall in our ever-expanding economy!

Iran: Supreme Court Passes Judgment on Spy Cases

LD1606160296 Tehran IRAN in Persian 11 Jun 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "The State Supreme Court's Actions Regarding Espionage and Other Criminal Cases"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The judges of the State Supreme Court have investigated, out-of-turn, and reached verdicts on 44 files in connection with spying for foreigners, armed robbery, kidnapping, and violent murder. They have sent these cases to the country's law courts to have the verdicts carried out.

Ayatollah [Mohammad] Mohammadi-Gilani, head of the State Supreme Court, announced this information in an interview with domestic reporters. [passage omitted]

He pointed to some statistics concerning the Supreme Court and said that sensitive cases — for instance, cases of murder, armed robbery accompanied by murder, rape, and kidnapping — are treated as special cases, which means that the Supreme Court judges investigate them on a round-the-clock basis.

He added: In this connection, 44 particularly sensitive cases were investigated out-of-turn and verdicts were issued on them. Out of this number, 18 involved charges of premeditated murder (which were very violent); eight concerned spying in the interest of foreigners; six were to do with rape accompanied by murder, four were on armed robbery combined with murder; two on armed robbery, and two on robbery involving large amounts of goods. [passage omitted]

Regarding the eight spies, the head of the Supreme Court said: The cases of these recently arrested spies have passed through the preliminary hearings and were then examined by the State Supreme Court which issued verdicts on them.

Iran: 9 Employees of Clergy-led Firm Arrested for Fraud

LD1406162896 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 12 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iran Holds Employees of Clergy-led Firm for Fraud"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — Iranian police have arrested nine employees of a firm of property developers led by a theology student for allegedly embezzling customers' savings.

The Persian daily, 'Kayhan', quoted Gholam Hoseyn Mohseni, prosecutor of a special clergy court, as saying the court ordered the arrest of the nine employees of Yavar-e Mo'menin (Helper of the Faithful) company for receiving deposits from customers without having the financial means to produce apartments as promised.

Gholam Reza Forughi, a 23 year old Shi'i Islamic theology student who was the firm's general manager, was among those held, Mohseni said.

Officials had earlier asked Forughi to end his activities, saying "they might cause public disrepute for the clergy," but he had continued after changing the company's name, Mohseni said.

'Kayhan' said the firm had attracted many customers with promises to sell apartments for as little as 17 million rials (5,700 dollars), a fraction of the market price in Tehran.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Government Decides To Cancel Mirage Deal With France

BK1506101596 Islamabad THE NATION in English 15 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by THE NATION correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Pakistan has decided to cancel 32 Mirage 2000-5 aircraft purchase deal with France following serious reservations expressed by various quarters including international aid donors about the viability of this deal.

The decision is learnt to have been taken last Wednesday at a meeting between President Farooq Leghari, who also is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Chief of Army Staff General Jehangir Karamat. They held a threadbare discussion on the issue while taking into view the consequences the country will have to face if this "controversial" deal is matured.

It may be mentioned that a detailed exclusive report on the deal was carried by The Nation in its June 7 issue. The report based on independent investigations and interviews with senior military personnel, Defence Ministry officials, economists and Western and European diplomats and Defence Attaches deduced that the Mirage deal has become the most controversial and tension-ridden issue between the Government, the Finance Ministry, international donors and military establishment.

Highly placed sources said there was serious consternation at a senior level in both the Army and the Air Force about the viability of the deal.

The Air Force pointed out that the cost of Mirage may not allow the Air Force to buy some 250-300 mid-level force fighters, such as the Chinese Super-7, that it will need in the next few years to maintain the Air Forces's bulk strength into the next century vis-a-vis India, which already overwhelms Pakistan by a 4 to 1 aircraft ratio. "There will simply be no money for the Air Force for the next decade to buy workhorse planes if this deal goes through," said a senior official.

Meanwhile, the Army has had no major weapons system inducted into its national defence since the US aid cut off in 1990 and the imposition of the Pressler Amendment. The Army badly needs a new battle tank, artillery and other armoured vehicles to see it into the next century. Senior officers say: "The operational preparedness of the Pakistan Army on the ground could be seriously impaired," if the Mirages are bought because the government will be unable to find additional funds for the Army's requirements.

Although the Defence Ministry has budgeted for the Army to buy 600 Russian-made T-80 tanks at a cost of some US 600 million dollars from Ukraine, officers point out that much more equipment is needed. Although the Defence and Finance Ministries have prepared a budget for military purchases and have promised to meet all requirements until the year 1998, there is serious questioning in the establishment about where the government will get the money from when Pakistan faces a monumental economic and fiscal crisis. "There is no doubt about the government's good intentions to give the armed services what they want, but where will the money come from? There is no answer to that question," said a defence official. Finance officials also admit that the Mirage deal will exert a stranglehold on Pakistan's foreign exchange and balance of payments over the next decade.

Reliable sources indicated that the President and the Army Chief also examined security issues as well as the factors that could raise problems for the country's strategic land defence against India if Pakistan purchases Mirage aircraft. They also took into consideration the allegations of kickbacks into this deal and decided to expose the persons bringing a bad name to Pakistan.

The meeting also focussed on the issues related to national security, political polarisation and to top these all the deteriorating law and order situation in the country. President Leghari briefed General Karamat about the measures taken by the Federal Government for improving the situation.

It may be mentioned that it was the first meeting between the President and the Chief of the Army Staff in which the two discussed the issues of national security and internal political situation in detail, after the assumption of the office by the latter. Both of them are learnt to have similar opinion on various important issues.

Pakistan: Government Denies Reports of Cancellation

BK156154496 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] While rejecting reports about the cancellation of the agreement on the purchase of Mirage aircraft, the government has termed such reports as merely speculative. A presidential house spokesman, making an official denial on this issue in Islamabad today, clarified the situation and said the government makes all decisions on such matters at an appropriate forum only.

Pakistan: Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Discusses Defense Matters

BK1406162096 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 14 Jun 96 pp 1, 3

[By Staff Reporter]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rawalpindi — An important meeting of the joint services staff committee was held at the Joint Services [JS] Headquarters in Rawalpindi on Thursday under the chairmanship of Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, the joint chiefs of staff committee chairman. The meeting was attended by the defense secretary, chiefs of the three armed forces, defense experts, and senior military officers. It discussed and made important decisions on the distribution of the defense budget as provided by the Federal Government for, among other things, local production of defense and military equipment and arms and ammunition and the purchase of weapons from friendly countries according to the needs of the three armed forces. The meeting reviewed in detail the list of arms and equipment offered under the Brown Amendment, the purchase of Mirage aircraft from France, the development and production of the latest missiles, aircraft carriers, and nuclear submarines by India, the issue of peace and stability in the region in view of ongoing Indian atrocities in Kashmir, the imbalance of military strength in the region, the global scenario and the current defense and military situation on the borders and in the region, provision of training and other facilities to the armed forces personnel, and several other issues of interest.

According to sources, the meeting of the three services chiefs was held at the JS Headquarters on Thursday morning. It was chaired by Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, and attended by Defense Secretary Syed Salim Abbas Gilani, Chief of Army Staff General Jehangir Karamat, chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Abbas Khattak, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Mansurul Haq, defense experts, and senior military officers. The meeting discussed the distribution of next year's defense budget among the three wings of the Armed Forces, keeping in view their respective requirements for arms and ammunition, and military equipment and materials to be purchased from abroad to ensure full military preparedness of the three services. It stressed the need for achieving self-sufficiency in the local production of military equipment and arms and ammunition to overcome the tremendous military imbalance created in the region by India which is not only developing and deploying the latest missiles, producing fighter planes, an aircraft carrier, eight destroyer frigates, and nuclear submarines locally, but also purchasing weapons worth trillions of rupees from all over the world.

The joint services chiefs meeting also examined the final list of items to be selected from among the military equipment and arms and ammunition offered to Pakistan under the Brown Amendment, which experts have analyzed and declared essential for the country. It also reviewed the deal for used Mirage planes and the purchase of Mirage 2000-5 aircraft from France. On that occasion, it was said that the deal for used Mirage planes was finalized according to the established procedure and allegations about any commission payment in connection with this deal are incorrect. However, the matter is still being investigated.

The meeting was told that the local production of equipment and materials necessary for the Pakistan Navy as well as the acquisition of P-3C Orion aircraft from the United States and of submarines along with their technology from France will tremendously boost the Pakistan Navy's capability to give a befitting reply to the enemy.

On this occasion, important matters of mutual interest to the three services, including the situation created by ongoing Indian atrocities in Kashmir and its provocative actions along the working boundary [preceding two words in English] were discussed in detail. At the end of the meeting, Air Chief Martial Farooq Feroze Khan expressed satisfaction over the preparedness of the Pakistani Armed Forces and said that by the grace of God Pakistan's defense is in strong hands. Pakistani Armed Forces are fully capable of giving a befitting response to any aggression and no one should have any misconceptions about this. The defense secretary assured the services chiefs of the government's full cooperation in meeting the requirements of the Armed Forces.

Pakistan: 'Serious Efforts' Begin on Proposed Talks With India

BK1506133696 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 15 Jun 96 pp 1, 5

[Report by C.R. Samshi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad — Riaz Khokhar, Pakistani high commissioner to New Delhi, has been summoned to Islamabad immediately in view of the proposed talks between Pakistan and India on all disputed issues, including Kashmir. He is due to arrive here on 15 June. According to responsible diplomatic sources, the summoning of the high commissioner to Islamabad indicates that serious efforts have begun to reduce the tension between Pakistan and India following the recent correspondence between their prime ministers.

The sources disclosed that after extensive consultations with President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani high commissioner will then leave for Washington, where he will hold talks with important U.S. authorities on the latest situation in Kashmir and on progress in the move to hold a dialogue between Pakistan and India. Diplomatic sources say that the United States is taking an extraordinary interest in the proposed talks. The sources said, however, that no agreement has been reached at the moment on any proposal of mediation during the talks.

It has also been learned that the Pakistani high commissioner to New Delhi has informed the Interior Ministry, in relation to the secretary-level talks, that India has agreed that they be held in Islamabad. The sources said that previous negotiations between the two countries suffered a stalemate when the Pakistani foreign secretary was in New Delhi in connection with the negotiations. Informed diplomatic sources have termed the new situation as exceptional.

Pakistan: Asif Ali Comments on Kashmir Elections, Ties With India

BK1606100696 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said it will be another blunder if India tries to hold elections in occupied Kashmir. In an interview, he said the outcome of those elections will be the same as the recent Lok Sabha elections. The foreign minister said Pakistan wants to resolve all its problems with India through negotiations for the sake of regional peace. He wondered why the Indian leadership is hesitating to include Kashmir on the agenda of Pakistan-India talks.

Pakistan: Bhutto Article Views Upcoming G-7 Meeting in Lyon

BK1706103396 Karachi DAWN in English 13 Jun 96 p 11

[Article by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto: "Rich and Poor, We're All in This Together"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Later this month, the leaders of the Group of Seven—the seven most economically and militarily advanced nations—will sit down at the same table in Lyon, France. These powerful heads of state have many concerns, but their main focus should be the nations without seats at the table.

The G-7 countries need to figure out what they can do to ensure a stable world, not only politically, but economically and socially. Why? If the current gap between the wealthy few and the disadvantaged many continues to grow, the whole world will suffer.

Despite temporary economic difficulties, the G-7 nations are enjoying unprecedented prosperity. This prosperity has been accompanied by a growing indifference toward less prosperous nations, however. The upcoming meeting in Lyon is a perfect opportunity for the haves of the globe to demonstrate their willingness to assist the have-nots. Through their words and actions, they can make a real difference in the lives of millions.

The troubles of the have-nots are great: too many countries lack resources, are mired in deep debt and have high levels of malnutrition. Other problems include low levels of medical care, illiteracy, no access to clean drinking water and no system of sewage, sanitation and drainage.

Here in Pakistan, for example, I was horrified when, just after I became prime minister, I discovered that many major hospitals in our cities had no human-waste disposal systems. Hospitals lacked specialized care centers, such as burn units, which could have saved countless lives. Many died for want of proper medical care.

We know what our problems are and we know what we must do to overcome them—but too often, we don't have the money required to meet our goals. Despite our best efforts, our country's debt leaves very little room for human investment. The government's total income is 278 billion rupees. Of that, we spend 187 billion rupees on debt repayment alone. That's 67 per cent of our budget!

The golden years of the oil boom and foreign aid during the Afghan freedom struggle has faded away. Pakistan now has to stand on its on feet, but it is not an easy task. I have no doubt our people will rise to the challenge. But even our best efforts for years to come will leave too little for investment in social infrastructure and programs to eradicate poverty...too little to spend on our women and children...to little for our future.

These are the types of problems that the G-7 nations need to address in their upcoming meeting. They should look at the example set by the Scandinavian nations, which allot 1 per cent of their gross national product for assistance to developing countries.

The Scandinavians have a truly global and humanitarian outlook to their foreign policy — an outlook the G-7 nations would do well to follow.

French President Jacques Chirac, chair of the Lyon conference, is a man of immense understanding and great experience. I believe he understands the importance of reducing the gap between rich and poor, so I urge him to spearhead a drive to renew the G-7 pledge to devote at least 0.7 per cent of the member nations' GNP to developing-country assistance.

Another way the wealthy of the world can assist the developing countries is through mutually beneficial trade. I applaud the recent efforts of the G-7 nations to open global markets to the fruits of developing nations' labor. Easier access to the markets of more affluent countries will give a welcome boost to the trade balance of developing nations, allowing them to purchase more of the sophisticated products that G-7 nations are so adept at producing.

Now is not the time to introduce new conditions to enforce the social standards of the western world. These standards are made possible by prosperity — and if developing nations are not given a chance to attain that prosperity, they won't be able to achieve those standards. In this time of opportunity, when the ideological divisions of the cold war have ended, our responsibilities are in direct proportion to our abilities.

We should all do our part in a new "partnership for development and peace" — a partnership that embraces not only East and West, but North and South.

So, as the great leaders of the world gather around the table in Lyon, they can send a powerful message to the developing world: We're all in this together.

Pakistan: Bhutto Chairs Top-Level PDF Meeting

BK1606154496 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Raja Zulfikar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: Top PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] leaders remained undecided over mechanism of local bodies elections but agreed to hold these polls in September this year in Punjab.

The PDF meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, held in-depth discussion on this issue for about two hours on Tuesday and decided to meet again soon to finalize further modalities, an official spokesman said after the meeting. The local polls will be held simultaneously in all the four provinces and the Punjab government has been asked to make arrangements for the September elections, sources said.

Informed sources told THE NEWS that the deadlock still persisted with the PML-(J) [Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo] insisting it could not agree to the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] proposal for local elections on party basis.

The PPP had decided to urge its allies to agree to a decision of the Central Executive Committee (of the PPP) that local elections should be held on party basis. It had hoped its partners would be reconciled and had foreseen no difficulty hampering this.

"Both the parties (the PPP and the PML-J) stood firm on their respective stances but they agreed to give the issue due consideration once more for which another meeting is due soon," Iqbal Ahmed Khan, Secretary General of the PML-J and Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology told The News.

He denied that the differences were serious in nature but conceded there was a lot of argument from both sides. "We have finalized the date but we are yet to determine the system," Iqbal Ahmed Khan maintained.

He said the two parties would soon be able to resolve whatever differences existed on the system of local body elections.

The PDF meeting primarily had two issues on the agenda: discussion on local body elections and the AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] polls. "There was no discussion on the law and order situation in the country," Khan said. Besides him, the meeting was attended by Hamid Nasir Chattha, the provincial Chief Ministers, federal ministers and the attorney general. The PDF leaders reportedly showed consensus to form a joint strategy to capture the AJK polls for which both parties are going at the hustings with full force. The meeting was also briefed on the chances of PDF success in the AJK polls and the Prime Minister urged the meeting to put in more vigor in constituencies where the PDF candidates did not have bright chances of success.

Sources said the PDF meeting also discussed some legal issues but the official spokesman did not comment on this saying the agenda included discussion "basically on two items."

Pakistan: Bhutto Defends Federal Budget

BK1606142296 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Strongly defending the federal budget for the next fiscal year, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said her government is determined to deal with the serious problems of debt repayment and demographic pressures to eliminate poverty and minimize inflation to ensure a bright future for the country. Briefing senior economic journalists on the state of economy and next year's federal budget in Islamabad today, the prime minister termed democratization, demographic pressure, and debt repayments as three major problems. She said we have the necessary will, expertise, and determination to take hard decisions to put the economy of the country on an even keel.

The government is facing realities and trying to provide viable solutions, she added. Concerted efforts are being made to create a balance between income and expenditures, reduce debts, and minimize outlay on civil management. The prime minister said imposition of new taxes to the tune of over 40 billion rupees have been necessitated to reduce budgetary deficit to 4 percent. The present government has been able to bring down the budget deficit from 8 percent to 5 percent, which is a major achievement. The target for the next year is 4 percent.

The prime minister said solution of our problems lies in strengthening the democratic process, reducing debts, and easing our demographic pressures. The priorities of the government are to preserve and strengthen national security, protect life and property, and accelerate economic growth to provide a better future to the people. In the past, no one had the courage to take difficult decisions for a bright future. It is our government which is taking hard economic decisions. However, this is a temporary phase which will be over soon. The government is making all out efforts to check the price hike due to heavy borrowing by the previous government. Had the present government not taken appropriate measures, the inflation rate would have been 20 percent. She hoped during next year, the inflation rate would come down to 8 percent.

About big bank defaulters, the prime minister said she has directed the Law Ministry to consider setting up of a commission to examine these cases and identify those who got their loans written off or got big loans without collateral. A committee has also been formed comprising three senior economic journalists to look into figures of less collection of customs duty this year despite increase in imports.

To another question, the prime minister categorically said there has been no increase in salaries and allowances of the president, the prime minister, and members of the cabinet. What has been provided in the finance bill is that salary of the president, the prime minister, and judges would be linked to increase in the salaries of civil servants.

Pakistan: Atomic Energy Commission Faces 10 Percent Budget Cut

BK1606145396 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Jun 96 p 12

[Report by Tariq Butt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has been earmarked Rs [rupees] 880 million in the federal budget which is about ten per cent less than the last year's allocation of Rs 968m.

Keeping in view the massive devaluation and the high inflation, the reduction in allocation for the PAEC is much more than 10% in real terms, and will come over to 25 per cent.

Because of considerable reduction in the allocation, the research sector at the PINSTECH [Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology] and other allied centers are expected to be affected badly.

However, there is no indication in the budget documents about the areas which will be affected by the reduction. Apparently, it will not relate to the salaries which cannot be reduced or other areas where it is not possible to introduce cuts. While the PAEC has faced the cut, the 300-megawatt Chashma Nuclear Power project, being built with the Chinese assistance, has got a small increase in allocation as compared to the last year. An amount of Rs 4,658 million has been placed for it under the Public Sector Development Program (PDSP), while it was Rs 4,625 million (revised) last year.

The PDSP has also allocated funds for upgradation of six nuclear medical centers at a cost of Rs 25 million and Rs 37 million for additional facilities at the National Institute for Bio-technology and Genetic Engineering, Faisalabad, one million rupees for the French-funded Karachi Institute of Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine and Rs 5 million for nuclear survey.

Pakistan: 5 Arab Islamic 'Preachers' Arrested, To Be Deported

MM1406150396 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by 'Umar Faruq in Islamabad: "Pakistan Arrests Five Arab Preachers for 'Suspicious Activities'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Pakistani authorities are increasingly wary of Arabs of unknown citizenship, and this has led the security organs to arrest five Arab preachers in the north of the country. Pakistani Interior Minister Nasrullah Babar said that they will be deported to their homeland.

In statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the Pakistani interior minister said that, at the time of their arrest, the Arab citizens did not possess the necessary travel documents.

He said: "There is no need for anyone to come and preach Islam in Pakistan instead of doing it in his own country. Secondly, Pakistan has enough scholars who can perform this task."

In response to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's questions, the minister said that, so far, the information available indicates that these Arab citizens were not in a position to carry out any terrorist activity. He then added: "We are, however, still collecting additional information."

The prisoners did not possess passports from the province's immigration department. The security organs arrested them, accusing them at first of "suspicious activities." The security people claimed that the five Arabs were trying to carry out "acts of sabotage." The province's central investigations department, however, dropped all charges against them. The Arab citizens said that they were preaching in religious matters in northern Pakistan. They are Mustafa 'A. (from Morocco), 'A. H. Mubarak (from Qatar), S. Muhsin (from the United Arab Emirates), 'A. Sha'ban (from Egypt) and Muhammad (last name unknown, from Algeria).

Although the charges against the five Arabs were dropped, they are still being detained at the security department. The Pakistani interior minister told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that all five prisoners will be sent back to their home countries.

It should be mentioned that the arrest of the five Arab citizens took place in a Pakistani area adjacent to the Afghan border. During 11 years of the Afghan war, this area was a refuge for the activities of the Arab Afghans.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Minister Says LTTE Must 'Lay Down Arms' Before Talks

BK1606121396 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists who were defeated by the security forces in Jaffna are attacking innocent civilians to divert Army's attention. Deputy Defense Minister General Anuruddha Ratwatte told the SLBC that the government would not permit the LTTE to carry out such diabolical acts. The minister gave a firm assurance that terrorism will be eliminated. The government will not be diverted from the goal of once again uniting the north and south. The ongoing war is for the liberation of the Tamil people, and it was in no way against them. The minister confirmed that 70 percent of the Jaffna peninsula is now under the control of the Army. The balance will be liberated from LTTE control before long. The government is firmly committed to finding a political solution to the ethnic crisis. It is, however, not ready to talk with the LTTE until they lay down arms.

Sri Lanka: Minister Comments on Energy Situation

BK1506094096 (Internet) Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 15 Jun 96

[Report by A. S. Fernando — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] POWER AND Energy Minister General Anuruddha Ratwatte on Friday ruled out the possibility of an immediate easing of the current eight-hour power cut as an adequate increase in the country's hydro power capacity had yet to be recorded.

"True, there has been rains in the hydro catchment areas for the last few days and in fact, the total hydro power capacity which stood at 87 million units on June 6 has now gone up to 146 million units. That's a marked increase. But we are not out of the woods yet," the Minister told the Daily News.

"After all, 146 million units represent only about 14 percent of the total storage capacity," he explained. "Besides, it is not clear whether the current spell of rains is just a temporary phenomenon or the monsoon has really set in promising a continuity of rains. Therefore, we cannot afford to take a decision to ease the power cut immediately."

The Minister assured that the government was keen on providing relief to the people in whatever measure possible with the least delay. "I am going to meet my officials again on Monday to take stock of the situation and look into the possibility of relaxing the power cut," General Ratwatte said.

Sri Lanka: LTTE Dispatch Confirms Attack on Police

BK1606123496 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 8 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A report released by the [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE] headquarters says that 11 soldiers were killed in an attack carried out near Welikanda in the east. A police contingent on patrol at Welikanda near the border with the Batticaloa District came under attack at 0745 on 7 June. During the attack, troop reinforcements from the Welikanda military camp that rushed to the rescue of the soldiers were also attacked by another LTTE unit. Freedom fighters — Valiant Tiger Pradeep Raj, alias Chelvaratnam Chelvanayagam, from Batticaloa, and Valiant Tiger Yogadeepan, alias Markandu Dharmalingam — attained martyrdom during this successful ambush. Our tribute goes to those national heroes who completely dedicated themselves in the holy war to rout the enemies from our motherland.

Two Sri Lankan soldiers were killed when LTTE cadres infiltrated and attacked the troops at Sri Lankan security posts located at Tandikkulam, north of Cheddikulam in the Vavuniya District. This attack took place at 0330 on 7 June. During the attack, soldiers from the nearby security posts fled the scene while shooting indiscriminately.

One soldier was killed by an LTTE sniper in the Mantuvil area of Thenmarachchi. It should be noted that a number of soldiers were killed during the recent attacks in the Mantuvil area.

Karikalan, deputy leader of the LTTE's political wing, says: The Sri Lankan Armed Forces have been trapped on the Jaffna peninsula and are facing the critical situation of meeting their historic downfall. He said this while speaking at the inauguration of the first Woman Black Sea Tiger Ankayarkanni Memorial Housing Scheme in Kolunduppulavu [placename as transliterated]. He also said: The troops who are entangled in their own net and are languishing on the Jaffna peninsula are not in a position to escape. This will be an historic downfall of the Sri Lankan military. At the same time, he has also appealed to everyone to unite and work together to rebuild the nation. Saying that every opportunity should be properly utilized to achieve success, he also stressed the need to work hard.

A boy was killed and two others injured in a bomb blast in Puthur. This unfortunate incident occurred when an unexploded and abandoned mortar shell exploded as they picked it up and were trying to play with it. It should be noted that people have been killed and wounded recently in such bomb blast incidents in different parts of the Jaffna peninsula.

The Sri Lankan Government has imposed a ban on medicines worth about 1 million rupees, which were sought for dispatch to Wanni by the QTEC [acronym as transliterated — expansion unknown] organization. The petition of the aforementioned organization seeking the permission of the Sri Lankan Government to dispatch a portion of the medicines from Colombo for treating the people living in Wanni who were displaced from Jaffna was rejected by the government.

Thanks. The Tigers's aspirations: motherland of Tamil Eelam!

Sri Lanka: 'Terrorists' Attack Police Posts

BK1406122296 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] lost its main citadel of Jaffna earlier last month, the guerrillas have stepped up attacks elsewhere in the country.

A large number of terrorists simultaneously attacked the Alioluwa police post and the Serunuwara police station in the early hours of today [14 June]. Alioluwa is about 7 km south of Seruvilla in the Trincomalee District. Reinforcements were sent from Mahendrapura Army detachment and the attack was effectively retaliated by the police. In the confrontation a soldier was killed and three policemen, four soldiers, and one home guard were injured.

Yesterday around 0200 [13 June], a group of terrorists attacked the Eagle Point police post at the central camp about 13 km northwest of Karaitivu in the Ampara District. However, the policemen retaliated, repulsing the terrorist attack. Two policemen were killed and another was injured. The Operational Headquarters of the Ministry of Defense, in a news release this morning, said that the group of terrorists had set up an improvised explosive device on high-tension electric pylon between the second and third milepost along the Pottuvil-Lahugala main road. However, the power supply was not affected due to the explosion.

The operational headquarters say that the missing vehicle belonging to the GA [Government Agent], Mannar, in which the accountant, driver, and the grama sevaka [village headman] who were travelling in the vehicle when it was hijacked were released and the vehicle had been detained by the terrorists has been found. Troops conducted a search operation in the area to locate the vehicle and detected it hidden in a scrub with a group of about six terrorists. On seeing the advancing troops, terrorists opened fire with small arms. Troops retaliated, inflicting casualties among the terrorists. The terrorists withdrew leaving behind the vehicle.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.